

Meet Reality 2.0

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Bridging the maps

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Mourning 5.12



ICphoto

By Li Fenghua

An art exhibition to mourn victims of the May 12 Wenchuan earthquake was held Wednesday in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province. A large poster with everything they wanted to say to disaster victims was displayed in Wushan square. Wish papers from teachers and students were

arranged like bricks on another wall.

Yesterday, a month after the quake, teachers and students from the Chinese Academy of Fine Arts expressed their grief over the disaster. More than 180 posters and sculptures were exhibited at the show.

The death toll from the May 12

earthquake increased to 69,159 as of Tuesday noon, the Information Office of the State Council said. Another 374,141 people were counted as injured and 17,469 still remained missing since the 8.0-magnitude quake.

An estimated 45.69 million people were affected by the disaster.

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Baccarat ring
busted in mountain

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dust to art

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Artist pushes movies
in a minute

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Crash victims, box recovered

By Zhang Dongya

The black box voice recorder from a crashed quake relief helicopter was found, military sources told Xinhua Wednesday. The body of the last victim was found after a 12-day search.

The remains of all 18 people in the copter, including five crew members and 13 injured, were found at the crash site near Yingxiu, Sichuan Province, the Sichuan military quake relief headquarters said.

The five crew members included the 51-year-old captain Qiu Guanghua, pilot Li Yue, a newly

wed who had not had his wedding ceremony yet, mechanical officers Wang Huaiyuan and Chen Lin, and 23-year-old sergeant Zhang Peng.

The military photographed the bodies and took DNA samples of each before carrying out epidemic prevention measures, the headquarters said.

The shipment of the bodies to the quake relief headquarters in Yingxiu started yesterday. However, due to the complicated terrain and unstable weather conditions, the shipment would be no easy task. The bodies might not arrive at Yingxiu until Friday or Saturday, Zhang

Peimin, an officer of the Sichuan Military Area Command, said.

As many as 1,000 soldiers had been dispatched to carry the bodies out of the region on foot, as it was too mountainous and the forest cover too thick to allow rescue helicopters to land.

The Mi-171 military transport helicopter crashed at 2:56 pm May 31 while transferring 13 civilians injured in the May 12 earthquake.

The debris of the helicopter was found in the bushes northwest of Yingxiu Tuesday.

The crash was caused by the helicopter's sudden encounter with

strong turbulence and the dangerous terrain near the crash site, Ma Gaihe, an officer with the General Armament Department of the People's Liberation Army, said.

More than 100 helicopters were sent to locate the craft, and 300 rescue teams of 10,000 troops, armed police, militia, reserves and local residents combed the region.

According to the State Council Information Office, as of Wednesday noon, the death toll of China's May 12 earthquake has increased to 69,149, with a total of 374,072 people injured and 17,516 missing.

Law taken out of the hands of traffic assistants

By Zhang Dongya

Assistant traffic police in town will no longer be allowed to photograph cars or issue parking fines, Beijing Traffic Management Bureau said Tuesday. These tasks and others will be handled by full traffic police.

All information on parking fines collected by assistants must be entered into the city's traffic database by Tuesday.

According to a regulation to strengthen the construction of traffic police assistants issued by the Ministry of Public Security in May, assistants are to work under the management of their superiors, and traffic police and related departments are prohibited from setting fine quotas that their assistants must meet.

After the adjustment, the main task of assistants will be to patrol hutong streets and residential areas to locate areas of illegal parking. They are to tell drivers to move their vehicles or report the vehicle if the driver is not present. Traffic police will then go to the scene to photograph the vehicle and issue a fine.

"The traffic police assistants, as their name implies, should assist the traffic police, not replace them. It is a serious issue to define who has the right to enforce the law," a driver said.

Assistants have been recruited and managed by Beijing Traffic Management Bureau since 2005. There are currently 3,000 traffic police assistants in the city.

As the Olympic Games approaches, traffic in Beijing is attracting world attention. The spokesman of the Beijing Traffic Management Bureau said they will recruit more traffic assistants during the Games, and they are expected to help relieve the city's congestion.

Schools being checked for quake readiness

By Han Manman

All the school buildings in the country will be checked for structural resistance to earthquakes, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development said Tuesday.

The ministry said every province is asked to send experienced teachers to quake-hit areas to aid in teaching local students and to ensure the resumption of classes in disaster areas before September 1.

Alarmed by the May 12 earthquake in Sichuan Province, which killed and injured thousands of students as school buildings toppled, the state government ordered safety examinations to test the quake resistance of buildings and correct any quality problems, a joint notice issued by the ministries said.

According to the notice, the checks will cover every school and all associated facilities including dormitories, toilets and dining halls, especially for school buildings built before 2001 and those buildings made of brick and concrete. A database will be used to record unsafe buildings. Substandard construction will cease until a quake-resistance modification plan is drawn up and improvements completed.

The ministries will supervise all checks and resulting modifications. Anyone responsible for construction quality will be severely punished if they are believed to have violated the law, the notice said.

The Education Ministry has also ordered education departments at all levels to provide more information about disasters. Survival skills will be included in textbooks for primary and middle school students and in their extracurricular reading. Schools have also been asked to prepare emergency plans and carry out quake drills.

The two ministries and other authorities are considering tougher standards for school buildings. Under the new plan, schools will have higher quake-resistance standards than normal buildings, authorities said.

The education department has been involved in investigation of construction quality in quake area schools. If investigations show shoddy work was responsible for the collapse of any school buildings, offenders will be punished, ministry officials said at an earlier press conference.

Oil pots head for homes



Photo by Bruce Wang

By Li Fenghua

Building workers in the Heyi Community of Fengtai District have begun to distribute oil pots to residents. To guarantee each family gets a pot, the distribution is being done using real names.

According to the Beijing

Municipal Health Bureau, more than 5 million Beijing families will receive an oil pot to measure how much oil they use in cooking. Three million oil pots were already distributed to affiliated districts and counties of the city. The distribution work will be com-

pleted by July 20.

Studies show healthy adults should consume no more than 25 grams of oil per day. This activity, started by the Beijing Municipal Health Bureau, is intended to help the capital's inhabitants shape up their diets and waistlines.

Netizens suspicious of private charities' donations

By Han Manman

Private charities are facing a tough time convincing donors of the transparency of their donation process, and some netizens now doubt the numbers being reported by many private charities.

Bullog is a blog that hosts the works of young novelists and intellectuals and is known as one of the best Chinese-language blogs. Its founder, Luo Yonghao, is a former English teacher.

After the quake hit Sichuan, Bullog carved out a new role for itself - the charity of choice for many young Chinese who are keen to give money but eager to not do it through the government.

Every day on the Web site, Bullog publishes a list of relief efforts paid for from donations, which have exceeded 2 million yuan so far.

"We guarantee that we will make clear where every donation comes from and where it is spent," Luo wrote on his blog. The Web site buys materials that the victims need and hires trucks to deliver

those materials directly to Sichuan. Luo also publicized over a hundred receipts of the donations.

However, doubt over how the donations are being used persists among many netizens.

Bullog is one of many private charities in the country. All private charities face the same problems, which also expose a question: who supervises the donations?

There are currently three ways to donate to quake-hit regions: governmental organizations, NGOs and private charities.

The Red Cross Society of China, a governmental organization, received 4.12 billion yuan from donors as of Monday. The organization received both appointed audit organizations and government monitors for its use of earthquake donations.

The other is NGOs. Liao Bingxiong Foundation is an NGO set up by the Guangdong Humanities Society and Liao Bingxiong, a famous Chinese cartoonist.

On May 14, the foundation began cooperating with Netease.com to raise money for earthquake victims. Netizens were asked to elect a monitoring team and to vote on how to use the donations. Jet Li's One Foundation also asked the Deloitte firm to be its auditor.

In China, legal NGOs must register with the Ministry of Civil Affairs, and, in theory, must partner with a government institution.

However, private charities like Bullog are not registered in China. According to an official from the Ministry of Civil Affairs, it's hard to supervise and restrict these private charities. The official suggests donors choose to donate through government organizations or NGO foundations.

Lawyer Huang from the Beijing Yijia Law Firm said there is no related regulation on private charity management and such foundations are not breaking the law. "If the donations can be used in the right place transparently, then it's not a bad thing," Huang said.

Brief news

Police nab 6 for scalping

Beijing police arrested 6 people Tuesday for allegedly scalping more than 1,500 Olympic tickets.

Beijing police launched a campaign last month to wipe out ticket scalpers to ensure sports events, entertainment performances and the Olympic Games run smoothly.

Officials face punishment

Fifteen government officials from quake-hit Sichuan Province have been removed from their posts for malpractice involving quake-relief work.

The officials, ranking from the village-level Party chief to the deputy municipal civil affairs bureau chief, were blamed for slow response to the quake. They were also punished for wrongdoing in later relief work.

City bans fireworks in lead-up to Games

Fireworks will be banned across the capital from July 1 to October 8 for safety considerations before and during the Olympics and Paralympics.

To tighten up safety during the Games, the Beijing Work Safety Administration also requested round-the-clock safety watches at gasoline stations within 300 meters of all Olympic venues.

(By Han Manman)

Cops bust mountain casino



Police in Chongqing busted a group of people who gambled openly in the street. IC Photo

By Zhang Dongya

Police busted a baccarat casino operation in Mentougou District following a half-month investigation. As many as 23 suspects were detained during the bust.

In mid-May, police in Mentougou received a tip that a casino was operating in an abandoned factory in the district's mountainous area, and scores of gamblers were frequenting the site.

The gambling house was surrounded by mountains with the road into the factory its only entrance. The gamblers entered and left in special vehicles. The casino was open every three or four days for half a day watch at a time.

Police in Mentougou disguised themselves as villagers to the casino in their undercover operation. On the day of the bust, 30 policemen

were divided into three teams.

One team was detected by a sentry about 100 meters from the casino. After a cry of "police," gamblers began to flee the mountain. After closing off the entrance and the top of the mountain, the three teams of police began to search for suspects throughout the forest. After an hour of searching, police captured 23 suspects, including 10 women.

Police recovered 140,000 yuan in the bust.

Police learned later that the casino was a mobile operation that also opened in Shijingshan, and all gamblers had to be introduced through acquaintances.

In order to earn more money, they invited three women "experts" who had been trained or worked in casinos in Burma. The women

cheated by stacking the deck and other scams.

A woman gambler surnamed Li said she was introduced by one of her friends, and she became addicted to baccarat after winning 10,000 yuan in her first game. However, she lost more than a million yuan during the following half year, and borrowed money from the house at a high interest rate. Three days before being caught, she borrowed another 3,000 yuan at an interest rate of 300 yuan per day. After losing all the money, Li was forced to work for the casino to pay off her debts.

Mentougou police said that of the 23 suspects captured, 11 are detained on criminal charges, nine are under administrative detention and three have been released.

1 killed on Woo's new set

By Han Manman

A stuntman was killed and six other crew members were injured Monday in a serious fire on the set of John Woo's new movie *Chi Bi*, or *The Battle of Red Cliff*.

The Beijing fire department is investigating the accident. As of press time, the cause of the fire remains undetermined. The filming has been on hold since the accident.

Woo, director of hits *Face/Off* and *Mission Impossible II*, was in Hong Kong at the time of the accident. He and the second unit director in charge of filming rushed back from Hong Kong Tuesday after hearing of the accident and to deal with the subsequent issues.

An official statement issued by the crew Tuesday said the accident happened at 3 am on June 9. It said the crew was shooting a scene at a location in a northern suburb of Beijing where a small, smoking boat was to crash into a larger ancient war vessel. However, strong winds sent the fire out of control and the boats hit within seconds.

At the point of collision, where machines were supposed to let out smoke, an unplanned flame leapt 30 meters into the air, Xinhua reported, citing crew at the scene.

The six injured people were sent to the hospital and are reportedly in stable condition. A 23-year-old stunt man named Lu Yanqing was killed in the fire.

The statement said the crew "is deeply distraught. They are making every effort to make arrangements for the deceased, his family and the injured crew members."

Set in the Three Kingdoms period of ancient China between 220 and 280 AD, *Chi Bi* is adapted from the novel *Romance of the Three Kingdoms* and culminates in the battle of Red Cliff in which some 2,000 ships were burned.

The production has been plagued with problems since its beginnings. Heavy rains washed away part of an outdoor set in Hebei and there were several prominent personnel changes.

The film, which has a US \$80 million budget, has been billed as Asia's biggest cinema production and features famous actors.

CPI increased 7.7 percent in May



Bank of China released a report, saying the CPI had a 7.7 percent growth rate in May compared to the same time last year. IC Photo

New south station to start rail service

By Annie Wei

Beijing's newest railway station will open by August 1 in time for the 2008 Olympic Games, a Beijing Railway Bureau official said Wednesday.

The official, who declined to be identified, said the exact date of operation would be announced by the Ministry of Railways.

Construction on the Beijing South Railway Station began at the end of 2005 in Chongwen District with an estimated investment of 6.3 billion yuan.

The new station will serve as the terminal for the inter-city express rail between Beijing and Tianjin,

a port city about 120 kilometers southeast of Beijing, and a high-speed link between Beijing and the eastern financial hub of Shanghai.

The 115-kilometer Beijing-Tianjin railway, which is scheduled to be in use ahead of the Olympics, can allow trains to run at a speed of 350 kilometers per hour. The train travel time between the two cities will be cut to only 30 minutes from more than an hour currently.

Work on the 1,318-kilometer Beijing-Shanghai high-speed railway line started in April and is expected to be complete in five years. With a designed speed of 350 kilometers per hour, the line will cut the

journey time by half to five hours.

The new south station is 500 meters from the old south station, which was built in 1897. The old one closed in May 2006 and was demolished.

The new station's main building has five floors, including three underground. It can hold as many as 10,000 people.

The roof of the central building has been installed with more than 3,000 solar boards which have a total capacity of 245 kilowatts.

The city currently has three major railway stations. The new south station will be connected to Beijing's bus and subway systems.

Exhibit unearths treasure of Qing shadow puppets

By Jackie Zhang

With National Cultural Heritage Day around the corner, 11 types of Chinese shadow puppets are on display in the Mentougou Museum. The Xiaweidian shadow puppets are the highlight of the group.

Characters used in shadow puppet shows are mostly drawn from Chinese opera. The exhibition focuses on the exquisite carving skills used by puppet artists. All shadow puppets are hung in glass windows against a backlight to show off the carving technique.

Tangshan type puppets retain

the traditional carving techniques; shadow puppets from the northeast embody the traditional leatherwork skills of the Manchu ethnic group; and shadow puppets from Jiangsu and Zhejiang Provinces are most famous for their brushwork; Beijing's shadow puppets focus on water colors and oil painting, as well as an emphasis on Peking opera facial makeup.

The most attractive shadow puppets in the exhibition are the Beijing Xipai (western) Xiaweidian shadow puppets, Tan Yong, curator of Mentougou Museum, said. Beijing puppets can be divided into

Xipai and Dongpai (east genre) types. "Shadow puppets from the west of Tiananmen are Xipai puppets and those from the east are Dongpai puppets," Tan said.

The over 400 Xiaweidian shadow puppet collections of late Ming and early Qing Dynasties in the Museum are quite rare Xipai puppets. "This April, under the guidance and direction of Lu Hai, a sixth generation Beijing Xipai shadow puppet play troupe performer, many of these puppets were repaired," Tan said.

"These Xiaweidian puppets have been damaged by age," Lu

Public invited for Shaolin's annual Zen-debate

By Annie Wei

Shaolin is known for its martial arts, but Zen is another important part of Shaolin culture.

China Buddhism Online and the other Buddhist associations will open this year's session of the annual Shaolin Zen Talk to spread Buddhism and universal love from July 11 to 13 in the Shaolin Temple, Henan Province.

The theme of the event is to open one's wisdom and rekindle the light of one's heart. The event consists of several different activities like debate, forums and calligraphy exhibitions. Events are aimed to make Zen accessible to the public and promote education about Buddhism.

Jin She, the event's Beijing contact, said Zen debate started 1,000 years ago but halted in recent centuries.

Fifty monks from different temples across the country applied for the event last year, Jin said. The organization has already received applications from 34 Buddhist scholars for this year. They expect more applicants, and the selected 24 debate participants will receive free meals and accommodations at Shaolin Temple during the event.

The atmosphere was great at the scene last year, Jin said; 24 monks gave excellent talks about Buddhist wisdom. The event was held in a special sections of the Shaolin Temple which only opens to the public once a year and only for this event.

People from all over the world who are interested in Buddhism are invited to participate, Jin said. As many as 300 people came to the temple to listen to last year's talks, including some from India, the US and Canada.

For people who want to join in the debate, the application deadline is July 10. For more info, log on shaolin.fjnet.com.

Looking for love in all the right places



A man is invited to a dating party held by a local matchmaking Web site.

CFP Photo

By Gan Tian

Looking for a husband is a monumental challenge for many marriage-minded girls. Some even spend thousands to pull it off. Recently, many women paid a tuition fee of nearly 60,000 yuan to attend a husband hunting course sponsored by a matchmaking Web site.

Running the course

Ruan Haiyan (pseudonym) is a 32-year-old team manager in a 4A advertising company in Beijing earning an annual salary of 20,000 yuan. She is very despondent at having no significant other.

Things started to change at the beginning of this April when Ruan heard about the husband hunting course opened by baihe.com, a matchmaking Web site. Though it cost nearly 60,000 yuan, the program still attracted her, as it promised to change her "love-attitude" thus helping her find a boyfriend or even a husband. She paid the tuition and entered the course.

Ruan was astonished at what she had heard from the love-training teachers. For example, she was asked to move to a new apartment in another district where "there were more bachelors." Ruan followed the suggestion, gave up her apartment and moved to Guomao. Many other students made similar and even more drastic changes.

During the 70-day course, Ruan attended theme parties, singing competitions, debates, presentations and other activities, and was invited to some men's apartments to show her cooking skills. She was given silly homework, like biting a chopstick or smiling at herself in the mirror.

After the course, Ruan got

acquainted with more than 20 bachelors and finally married an architect and started "building" a family.

She mentioned that at first she thought the course was of no value, but in the end, she changed her opinion completely and recommended it highly.

Love is big business

Sensing the growing numbers of female Chinese office-workers, some large matchmaking Web sites are producing a series of other programs, helping these women find mates.

Baihe.com, a Beijing-based love-hunting Web site, developed a "hunting-a-husband" course at the end of last year.

Other large Web sites, like zhenai.com, meetic.com.cn and jiayuan.com, provide users with men's information if they subscribe online. Some VIP users pay 10 to 15 yuan every month, by deducting the fee from their mobile phones and enjoy better services.

From iResearch statistics, there was a 37-million-yuan market of online matchmaking business in 2004, but that number grew to 91 million yuan in 2005. It is expected by the end of this year, the number will reach 653 million yuan, and in the following three years, it has a three-billion-yuan potential.

Most of the men were against the fees, saying that paying the money made the women think a husband is a product, and would spoil the purity of love.

A large number of women thought it a bad idea finding a husband by attending expensive courses or paying money. Lucky Zhang, a 26-year-old female reporter, was strongly against

the love-training courses. She has been surfing nearly every love-hunting Web site in China, but she refuses to pay any money. "I think it is sad if someone has to use money to 'purchase' love or a husband. Those courses are only a way to make money for the company." Though still single, she insists she will never take any hunting-a-husband training courses.

Sociologist Liang Huohui said that love will become big business as society develops. "Nowadays, people are all suffering from pressure and stress, and are spending less time looking for love, but the need still exists, so there will be markets dealing with it," Liang said.

Baigujiing bursting for love

Baigujiing means an unmarried female office worker and its pronunciation is similar to "white-collar, leader and elite" in Chinese. Though having elite education, Chinese women still find it difficult to hunt for a boyfriend or a husband.

The China Marriage Association and a famous Chinese matchmaking Web site released a survey online regarding love and marriage in February, saying that nearly half of China's marriages come from the cyber world.

The survey showed that the ideal marrying time for men is after 30, and for women, after 25. More than 90 percent of women believe that 23 to 26-year-old women are the ideal target for marriage, and men younger than 30 are out of the running when it comes to marriage.

In women aged between 25 and 35, their goodwill for men increases with the men's age going up. About 80 percent



The teacher in baihe.com is giving suggestions for women who are eager for love and husbands.

Photo provided by baihe.com



A would-be couple is sizing each other up at a speed dating activity held by a matchmaking Web site.

CFP Photo

of women believe that men around 30 are most suitable marriage targets.

By contrast, the ideal age for marriage for women seems to be crueler as 65 percent of men believe 25 to 28-year-old women are the ideal wife. The chances become slimmer for a man to find a woman older than 28 as a wife. When she is 30 years old, only 25.5 percent of men still consider marrying her, but when she is 35, only 12.5 percent of men can accept her in marriage.

Baigujiing, as a special social

group, have little communication with the opposite sex because of the busy work. At the same time, they demand their boyfriends have higher position, better salary and a social statue. At the same time, marriage costs and other factors make them still single at an age reaching nearly 30.

Though the official statistics show that the total number of men at present is larger than women in China, the unmarried Baigujiing are much higher in number than unmarried men.

Stocks fall after reserve ratio hike

By Huang Daohen

The stocks closed sharply lower this week, sending the Shanghai Composite Index below 3,000 points for the first time Wednesday since April, after authorities raised the reserve requirement on bank deposits.

The Shanghai Composite Index lost nearly 9 percent to 2,957.53 as of close yesterday, after falling to its yearly lowest 2908.14 yesterday. The last time it dropped below the 3,000 level was on April 22.

Rate hike

The People's Bank of China, the nation's central bank, asked lenders this weekend to set aside 17.5 percent of their deposits as reserves, up from 16.5 percent,

starting June 25.

The move is part of China's continuing efforts to bring down the nation's inflation rate, which is at its highest level in more than a decade.

Some analysts suggested that the nation should relax monetary policy as the economy faced a worrisome slowdown on weaker export growth.

But according to a research report released by the Bank of China on Tuesday, the government should stick to tight monetary policy and raise the interest rate at a proper time to ease inflation.

Rate hikes would help end negative interest rates and become one of the most effective weapons

against inflation, the report noted.

The devastating May 12 earthquake in Sichuan Province would not change economic fundamentals, but the massive investment during the post-quake reconstruction period might add new inflationary pressures, it said.

Vietnam crisis

Speculation that Vietnam could lead to a currency collapse also added to the downdraft. The Vietnam crisis recalled the troubles that rocked Thailand and the rest of the Asian region in the late 1990s.

Moody's lowered its outlook on Vietnam's ratings to negative from positive last week, citing policy shortcomings in addressing inflationary and balance-of-payments

pressures.

However, experts said the possibility is slim that Vietnam's financial woes could hurt China.

"There is talk in the market that Vietnam could be nearing a financial crisis, but personally, I don't think it could hurt the region as much as Thailand did more than a decade ago," Peter Lai, investment strategist at the Guangfa Securities, said.

"The two countries are starkly different in terms of major economic features," Lai said.

Moreover, other Asian countries would use their foreign exchange reserves to help Vietnam to tide over the crisis, he added.

Fitch says banks to face a challenging year

By Bai Jingnan

Chinese banks will face a more challenging future, Fitch rating said recently at its 2008 Global Banking Conference.

Due to a tightened monetary policy and a weakening global economy, bank earnings will slow this year, Charlene Chu, senior director from Fitch Asia, said.

Recent developments in asset markets are also pressuring bank earnings, and Chinese banks' credit system and financial infrastructure remain weak, she said.

The conference, themed "Looking to the Future-Assessing the Challenge and Opportunities," assessed the challenges and opportunities faced by banks both in the region and across the globe, and introduced Fitch's views on Chinese banks and the trends in the banking sector.

At present, Chinese banks' revenue structure has shown little change, Chu said. Interest earned on loans is still the main revenue, and the pricing of loans has not evolved to reflect underlying credit risk.

Shortest non-stop flight to Seattle opens

By Bai Jingnan

Hainan Airlines announced Monday the launch of its first non-stop flight from Beijing to Seattle, an 11-hour flight.

For June and July, the airline is offering round-trip fares from Seattle to Beijing for US \$650 in economy and about US \$2,500 in business class. The flight is made four times a week.

Hainan ordered eight Boeing 787s for the new route, but the jets - originally scheduled to be delivered this month - were delayed until next year, Wang Yingming, the head of Hainan Airline, said.

Referring to the effects of high oil prices on international routes, Wang said Hainan was optimistic about the prospects for profit.

Students paint for the Olympics

By He Jianwei

After a nationwide, nine-month selection process, six winners were chosen as China's representatives in the global Visa Olympics of the Imagination (VOI) competition Wednesday at Wanda Sofitel Hotel.

The VOI art competition called on children from 20 cities across China to submit artwork on what the Olympic Spirit means to them. The theme for all submissions was "Imagine One World."

More than 2 million Chinese children submitted artwork in a variety of media, including traditional Chinese paintings, mosaics, oil paintings, sketches and digital art, and incorporated elements such as the Olympic Rings, the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games logo and Olympic mascots.

VOI, launched by Visa International in 1994, is endorsed and supported by the International Olympic Committee as the only authorized Olympic art contest for children.

Robin Hoods phones dodge 18 bln yuan tax

By Annie Wei

China Central TV (CCTV) recently reported that the country produced 150 million no-brand, or "Robin Hood," cell phones, equal to the number of branded ones, and dodged 18 billion yuan of tax last year.

The clones look and function almost identical to Nokia and Motorola phones, and offer the same quality at a lower price. Manufacturers and users of the phones liken the phone production to Robin Hood: robbing from the rich companies to give to the poor.

Shenzhen the phone market

In China, Shenzhen is the ghetto of Robin Hood phones. In its electronic markets, cell phones have replaced former digital gear business. The phones are cheap and come in various designs like cigarette boxes, Mercedes-Benz, BMW and Porsche cars, and have extra features like camera or currency verifiers.

One of the distributors said his Nokia 6500 look-alike, a high-quality clone, sold 1,000 units per day; the iPhone was not only cloned, but augmented with more features targeted at the local market. Customers can find clones of other models not sold in China.

Many phones have extra-large screens, TV capability, two cameras, a multimedia player and two SIM card sockets. Some counters customize cell phones in different languages like Vietnamese, Arabic, German and Spanish.

Price is the main draw

A vendor said that distributors from all over the world go to Shenzhen for these products. Generally speaking, one vendor can make 20 yuan from each cell phone.

Phone production used to be complicated. However, in 2006, a Taiwan semiconductor company MediaTek developed a cheap cell-phone chip, which nullified the cost of core technology, Sun Yan, CEO of a Shanghai IT company, said.

Producers need only buy the MediaTek chip and assemble it with a shell and battery to produce a cellphone. The high profit margin lured in vendors from the MP3 player and fashion industry.

Wang Zhenlong, who used to produce Robin Hood cell phones,

said that small manufacturers like him did not need to register or apply for a license. They just cloned a cell phone, bought raw materials, rented a warehouse, hired a few workers and started production.

Brand-name manufacturers take an average of six months to prepare for a production run: it takes two months for a fly-by-night Robin Hood company, Wang said.

According to national regulations, to start the production run of a cell phone, a company must obtain a license, pay a certain amount of money to buy designs from a chip card design company and pay a 17 percent value-added tax.

Another Robin Hood manufacturer surnamed Ken said that the cost of a normal cellphone is 400 yuan, which includes 20 yuan for tooling, 200 yuan for the circuit boards to support MP3, MP4 and a camera, another 110 yuan for the battery, keyboard and camera and 17 to 20 yuan in processing fees.

Legal players cry foul

CCTV's report said that Robin Hood phones have a negative impact on domestic brand-name productions. Most of designed-in-China phones suffer from poor sales performance, especially since October 2007, when the government canceled its nine-year license policy on cell phone producers. Some Robin Hood manufacturers have evolved from a black market business to an emerging brand.

Li Hongtao, general manager from Shenzhen Konka Telecommunication Technology company, said they were facing great pressure from black market manufacturers who did not pay for tax or quality testing.

Shu Yinghua, a professor from Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications, said the low price of Robin Hood phones could impact the whole industry. The phones give the poorest sector a chance to purchase cell phones, but at the same time puts immense pressure on domestic brands to step up their quality assurance and slash their cost.

As for the Robin Hoods that have infringed on intellectual property rights, Shu said the government needs to step up its supervision.

LV Hangzhou branch closed for qualification concern



A Louis Vuitton boutique closed in Hangzhou Tower shopping mall Wednesday. IC Photo

By Huang Daohen

Luxury retailing giant Louis Vuitton closed its branch in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, after the local industry and commerce authorities found quality problems in its products.

The boutique, located in the high-end Hangzhou Tower shopping mall, was found on Wednesday with its display window cleaned out, curtains drawn and door logos carefully covered with white paper.

An official with the provincial Administration of Industry and Commerce told the local media that the administration found that some of the bou-

tique's products did not measure up to standards during a spot quality check in May.

According to regulations, Louis Vuitton can dispute charges within 15 days of the issuance of the official document and request a re-inspection. However, the company did not take action before the deadline when the administration seized the sub-standard products.

Zhao Xiaojing, director of communications for Louis Vuitton China, said the problem was caused by lack of one small piece of sample leather, which is usually attached to the product as a material mark in China.

Artist turns ashes into art

By Huang Daohen

Before scattering cremation ashes into the Pacific or conserving them in a well-designed urn, what else can be done that is a little more creative? Contemporary artist Shu Yong recently proposed a more "courageous" plan to create his new artwork from the ashes of victims of the Sichuan earthquake. This ignited a huge fire under netizens and the public.

The large-scale sculpture titled "The Flower of Life" was dedicated to the quake victims, Shu said as quoted by the Guangzhou-based Xinkuai Bao, "so that this period of history can become touchable."

Shu had been opening his solo exhibition in France when the quake hit Sichuan. Though the exhibition later turned out to be a success, he said he felt uneasy.

"I am very sorry for running away from the national crisis and I have been thinking for long time how to do something for the disaster area using my particular talents," he said.

Shu admitted that he could foresee the difficulty in getting the materials – human

ashes – for his project, as it is a serious Chinese tradition to conserve the relatives' ashes for memorial purposes. However, the artist said he would try by all means to complete the artwork and hoped that the families of the victims would voluntarily donate the ashes.

"Voluntary donation of the ashes is the most difficult problem now. I will not force anyone," Shu said, adding that he had launched a call-up online and received some responses.

Shu said he had cooperated with various technical staff and once the ashes were ready, they would be shaped them into a white flower.

Rubble and debris will also be collected from the quake-hit areas and made into a pedestal for the flower, with all of the victims' names engraved.

However, Shu said he would use the debris instead if the ashes were not available.

The sculpture will be presented to the National Museum after its completion, he said.



Shu's cremation plan triggers heated debate over whether ashen artwork is tasteful.

CFP Photo

Comment

Let them be

I am no stranger to deathbed experiences, but I found this exploration very distasteful. Let the victims rest in peace.

– Jun Lee, doctor

Courageous concept

It's a courageous move for the artist. But who will donate the ashes of their loved ones to a stranger for art?

– Jeff, expat teacher

Dignity above ground

The ultimate value of art is to show respect for life.

I think it is very civilized to shape the victims' ashes into a piece of art, rather than burying them deep in the earth.

The victims will gain more dignity when the ashes are placed as art in museums.

– Zhao, local resident

A breakthrough in art

Throughout the history of art, death and bodies have found their symbolic representation in various depictions.

Shu's idea may be a breakthrough in the concept of combining art and death that we were eternally bound to.

– Shelly Wen, lawyer

Gorgeous way to go

This will be gorgeous. Ashes in the shape of a beautiful flower is much better than a corpse photographed against a black background. It won't freak people out.

I was once repulsed by an exhibit of photography – a series of pictures taken before and after a subject's death.

– George Bannerson, culture counselor from Chilean Embassy

The name game

By Li Fenghua

Last Friday, the outcome of the first name-changing case in China was announced in Jiangxi Province. Zhao C, the litigant of the case, won and was permitted by the Yingtan Court of Justice to keep his name.

In August 2006, Zhao arrived at the Public Security Bureau (PSB) of Yingtan, Yuehu Branch, to update his identification card. He was required to change the Latin letter C in his name to a Chinese character because it could not be recognized by the census registration management system. The PSB would not update his card until he changed the Latin letter C to a Chinese character.

Zhao, a college student, was annoyed and refused to change his name. He said that his name is unique and he has used it for over 20 years. After refusal of another application for updating his identification card, Zhao sued the PSB in the Yingtan Court of Justice, Yuehu Branch, this January.

Zhao, born in 1986, has been proud of his name for years. "I was called Zhao C when I was born. I wouldn't know who I was if I changed my name," Zhao said.

"C is the initial letter of China, the motherland of Zhao, and is pronounced 'Xi.' I named my son in this way with the wish that someday he would go abroad for study and wouldn't forget his motherland," Zhao Zhirong, Zhao C's father, a lawyer, said.

The Yuehu branch, insisted that there should be no Latin letters, Arabic numbers or symbols in the names, according to the regulations of the name registration of the Ministry of Police Security.

Zhao Zhirong defended his son in the court of justice by saying, "The regulation is just a first draft, which has no legal power. According to the general regulation of Civil Law, a citizen has the right to decide, use and change his name. It is forbidden in the regulation to interfere with or embezzle other people's names."

Comment

No violation

The name Zhao C is not a violation of moral principles or ethics or a violation of regulations. It is not reasonable for the police to force citizens to change their names just because the system does not accept the letter. Anyway, the management system is just a system and the system should be adjusted to the people, not vice versa.

– Gao Fusheng, netizen

Keeping his name doesn't mean legal support

The fact that Zhao C won the right to keep his name just means that the Yingtan Court of Justice considers it unreasonable for the Police Security Bureau to force citizens to change their names. It does not mean that such names will receive legal support.

If the citizens misuse the right of naming by choosing a name randomly, then a lot of eccentric names such as Zhang A, Li @ will surface and it will be a great disaster to our society.

– Cai Fanghua, commentator of

Beijing Youth Daily

Inspirational case

It is encouraging and gratifying to hear that the Zhao C won his name back. The value of this case not only lies in the fact that Zhao C won his name back, but it inspired the citizens of China to ponder name protection and taking their names seriously.

– hssp, a blogger

Uniqueness should not override law

C is not a regular Chinese word and it challenges Chinese law. The judgment of the Yingtan Court of Justice proves that the judge didn't study Chinese law thoroughly. The letter C does not conform to traditional Chinese culture and the cultural order and will do harm to maintaining our national sovereignty and dignity. Pursuing uniqueness shouldn't override national law and should not do harm to national sovereignty and dignity.

– Zhang Xianjian, netizen

Sixty seconds to say it all



Trainers teach students how to make one-minute movies.

Photo provided by Today Art Museum

By He Jianwei

"The One Minutes is a plate of chocolates, each one more appealing than the next," Jos Houweling, director of The One

Minutes Foundation based in Amsterdam, said.

The World One Minutes exhibition, in which one minute videos from 100 countries are shown,

opened June 6 at the Today Art Museum "Within his minute, the artist can do whatever he wants, from recording a poetic dream to delivering visual sledgehammer blows, from giving an incomprehensible reply to an unasked question to observing some small thing in everyday life," Houweling said.

The One Minutes Foundation, established in 1998, is a brand name for moving images that last exactly one minute, titles included. This new art form fits in well with our fast-paced world and is a response to the influence of commercials, video clips and the Internet as well as the increased affordability of cameras and computers.

"Ten years ago, I gave two students the task of creating an hour of

television for the late-night broadcast at the local Amsterdam television station Salto. The students, taken by surprise by the assignment, edited the hour into one-minute pieces and asked friends and relatives to help them by each filling in one minute," he said.

From 1999, there has been an annual award presentation for the best One Minutes of the year. The award includes a bronze statuette, called the Tommie, and a sum of money.

All the works exhibited at the museum highlight the similarities and differences between the participating countries and their cultures in a natural manner. "Colors in Iceland are different from those in Mali because in Iceland the landscape is white with icebergs and

snow. Humor is also different from one country to the next," he said.

Categories were formed in which artists from all over the world could submit their work. For the 2008 award presentation, they have come up with categories themed One Minute of Freedom, Small News, Looking Out the Window and Book or Film Retold.

"Small News is intended for documentary makers with a fondness for trivial pieces of news – a blown-down tree or someone getting a diploma. It is the alternative world news service," he said.

Besides the exhibition, two professional artists from the foundation will teach 25 Chinese students from art schools how to make their own one-minute movie in 10 days.

Armenian ambassador dies after drinking

By Zhang Dongya

Movsisian Vahagn, Armenia ambassador to China, 46, died suddenly at about 1 am Tuesday morning in Beijing, *Beijing News* reported. Vahagn was thought to have died of a heart attack since he previously had a heart operation. The Armenian embassy confirmed his death, and the police are investigating.

Vahagn died in an apartment at Fuli City, Chaoyang District. A witness said that he had been drinking with several friends the previous night at the apartment and slept there after the party ended.

About 1 am, the ambassador was found unconscious at the door of the men's room by his friend. "He was wearing T-shirt and white trousers, with no evidence of bodily injury," the witness said.

Vahagn was later confirmed dead by first-aid attendants.

Officials at the Armenian embassy and a translator arrived later and sent the ambassador to the foreigners' section of Xiehe Hospital.

The apartment was empty after the ambassador's death Tuesday morning. The security guards at the apartment said that he died there, but still offered no concrete reason.

Movsisian Vahagn assumed the position of ambassador to China last year.

Athens Games 'retro-spectacle'



The costumes used in the Athens Games are on show at Beijing Capital Museum.

Photo provided by Greek Embassy

By Han Manman

Costumes, objects, photographs and videos from the preparation and the Opening Ceremony of the 2004 Athens Games have now traveled to the Beijing Capital Museum for an exhibition which will last until July 6.

Images ranging from the small boat and the Olympic circles written in fire on the water, the

Cycladic statue and the allegoric landscape of the Greek islands, the hourglass reflections, which depict through art, life in Greece from prehistoric times until today, to the Olive Tree – Symbol of Peace and the Olympic Games, will call to the visitors' mind the night of the ceremony and will give them an opportunity to understand how this Greek celebration was staged.

Filmmaker Athena Tsangari, a member of the ceremony's creative team in the roles of video director and large projections designer, designed a colorful series of video installations and projections for the exhibition. For a number of them, she is showing, for the first time, exclusive backstage footage captured during the

ceremony's two-year preparation.

For the final ten days of the exhibition, June 27-July 6, Tsangari will show her short "action-adventure diaries" of the opening ceremony. These videos reveal the creative process behind the show, and the collaboration aspects amongst the members of the creative team, led by artistic director Dimitris Papaioannou.

Part I: Artists in Art History Curator: Li Peng

Artists:

Huang Rui | Wang Chuan | Pan Dohai | Ye Yongqing
Mao Xuhui | Wang Youshen | Liu Xiaodong | Fang Lijun
Yue Minjun | Song Yonghong | Wang Guangyi
Zhang Xiaogang | Zhang Yu | Zhao Nengzhi | He Sen
Yin Zhaoyang | Zeng Hao | Hong Lei | Zhan Wang
Li Luming | Tang Zhigang | Zeng Farzhi | Zhou Chunya

Time: June 15 - July 20, 2008

Reception: June 15, 2008 15:30

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OF HUNAN FINE ARTS PUBLISHING HOUSE

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IN ART HISTORY AND ART CRITICISM

圣之空间

SZ
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Jiuchangqiao Road no.2-4, Chaoyang Dist., Beijing
Tel: +86-10-64381088 64357838 E-mail: info@szartcenter.com
Website: www.szartcenter.com

Activities coming along with the exhibition include lectures, screening and book shows.

Part II: Artists in Art Criticism Curator: Zhu Zhu

Artists:

Gao Kai | Fang Lijun | Hong Lei | Ji Dashun
Li Jikai | Li Qing | Liu Dahong | Liu Xiaodong
Liu Ye | Luo Quanmu | Mao Yan | Sun Liang
Wang Qin | Wang Yabin | Wong Fen
Xiang Jing | Xu Lei | Yin Zhaoyang | Yue Minjun
Zhang Fan | Zhang Xiaogang | Zhao Nengzhi

Time: July 26 - August 31, 2008

Reception: July 26, 2008 16:30



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Celebrities connecting to Connect2earth



World celebrities joined in WWF's green campaign, including James Blunt, Moby, Estelle and Emma Roberts (from left to right).

Photo provided by WWF Web site

By Jackie Zhang

Launched by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the green on-line community, Connect2earth, has now gained the support of several famous performing artists from all over the world.

By the end of last month, 11 celebrities, like Moby, the American DJ, songwriter, musician and singer who has sold over 16 million albums worldwide, James Blunt, the British singer-songwriter whose debut album, *Back to Bedlam*, and smash single "You're Beautiful," brought him fame in 2005, and Paul Van Dyk, who is currently ranked the World's No 1

DJ by DJ Magazine's "Top 100 DJs poll" for the second consecutive year, have expressed their support through videos or letters. By doing this, these stars greatly influence their fans to join in an environmental protection campaign.

Connect2earth, which was launched earlier this year and sponsored by Nokia, is a green on-line community where young people can share their input about the environment by uploading videos, pictures and comments. The site is also optimized and can be used on mobile phones. The Web site provides a space for people to tell the world why they care about the environment and why

it should be protected.

"By joining connect2earth, you can share your worries, your hopes, and your ideas with other people. So what we need to do is upload your photos, your videos or text via this Web site or your mobile device," James Blunt said.

By uploading your ideas on the Web site, you also become a potential participant for the upcoming IUCN World Conservation Congress this October in Barcelona, Spain. Because all pictures, comments and videos on the Web site will be voted on and ranked by others entering the Web site.

The best creator of the best video, picture or message will be selected from the highest-ranked

entries by a panel of prominent conservationists. And the winners will then get the chance to participate in the congress and give a 5-minute presentation directly to political, environmental and business leaders from around the world.

The congress is the world's largest and most important environmental event covering a broad range of issues. It brings together more than 8,000 leaders from governments, NGOs, the United Nations, business, scientific associations and community organizations.

"It's our chance and your chance to stand up and speak out," Blunt said. "We really need to show how important our planet is."

Chinese, Japanese and Korean models compete

By Gan Tian

The "2008 China Japan Korea Friendship Ambassador Cup International Model Contest" kicked off at the Trends Tower at the beginning of this month, attracting hundreds of models from the three countries attending the competition.

The competition, supported by the government of the three countries, is held by the Trends Media Group, China Radio International and J C International Co in Japan. The final contest will be held in Tokyo in October of this year. Now the women of the three countries can present their stats to the committee.

The contest requires the attendees to compete in swimming suits, casual, formal and national attire. Ten "friendship ambassadors" will be selected in the finals, and there will be four to five selection areas in



Organizers and guests from three countries gather for the model event.
Photo by provided by Trends Media Group

China. The competitors are being judged in different areas and there will be 16 taking part in China's final stage. The winners will be sent to Tokyo for training and the finale.

The committee asked for

donations for the Sichuan earthquake victims at the opening of the competition. Japanese idol Kaoru Hidaka said she would like to go to Sichuan for a relief performance.

Shinji Kobayashi, the chair-

man of the Japan Model Agency Association, mentioned years ago that the three countries should cooperate in fashion and modeling fields. "I hope to see a unified China-Japan-Korea model festival every year," he said.

Yang Eui-sig, who took the helm of the 5,000-member Korea Model Association three years ago, also expressed his wishes that the leading countries in Asia should come together. "In Asia, we may speak different languages but we Chinese, Korean and Japanese are almost indistinguishable in our facial appearance. So unlike actors, models have an advantage because they can use body language."

Wishes are coming true with the opening of the competition and some Japanese and Korean students living in Beijing are ready to compete and win.

Event

Talk: Taoism and Zen's Influence on Western Art

This lecture and slide show will cover two separate aspects. The first is based on the influences of Taoism and Zen on western contemporary art from 1960 to the present. The second part is a presentation of artist/curator Doug Lewis' projects since his arrival in Beijing. Douglas Lewis is a Canadian artist and curator. He has his Master's Degree from the Chelsea College of Art, London. Lewis has curated and exhibited his art in Canada, the US, Croatia and Britain and has up and coming exhibitions in Canada, China and England.

Where: Chinese Culture Club, Kent Center, No 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: June 17, 7:30-9 pm

Cost: 40 yuan, including coffee, tea and snack

Tel: 6432 9341 (Monday-Friday, 9 am - 6 pm), 6432 1041 (weekday mornings and evenings; and weekend, rerouted to mobile phone)

Lecture: Forgotten Beijing

Eric Abrahamsen, principal contributor to *Beijing by Foot*, will be speaking at the Bookworm about his new project, a collection of Beijing walks. Forgotten Beijing comes to life as Abrahamsen researches the walks, discovering some of Beijing's lesser known historical sights, from the underground tunnels traversing the city to exploring the trail of the recently demolished Milk Palace, where nursing women produced human milk for the consumption of the imperial court.

Where: The Bookworm, Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

When: June 17, 7:30 pm

Tel: 6586 9507

Help Sichuan charity concert

A group of mixed-nationality friends and musicians have decided to work together to raise as much money as possible for the Sichuan earthquake appeal. The night will feature four bands and will be an opportunity for Chinese and expat friends alike to raise awareness and much-needed money, through music, for those in desperate need of support. All funds raised and ticket money will be donated to the Red Cross.

Where: Dufeng Pizza Bar, Tsinghua University, Haidian District

When: June 14, 7:30 pm - 12 am
(By He Jianwei)

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Imperial College to open to the public tomorrow after a century

By Annie Wei

Local authorities have announced they were going to open more ancient buildings to the public tomorrow.

Among them, Kongmiao, the Temple of Confucius and Guozijian, the Imperial College during the Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties are being opened to the public in their entirety for the first time in nearly 100 years.

Another six historical sites like the temple of the Origin of the Dharma and temples of previous emperors are also free to visitors with an appointment.

For a long time, Kongmiao and Guozijian were occupied by the Capital Library and the Capital Museum. In 2004, the library

and museum were moved out and the local authorities decided to spend 20 million yuan to repair these sites.

The newly-renovated Kongmiao and Guozijian have returned to their original Qing dynasty appearance and so has the street where Guozijian is located.

To visit other newly-open historical sites, authorities say that visitors have to make a reservation through Beijing Administration of Cultural Heritage at bjwh.gov.cn.

To make an appointment, call between 9 and 11:30 am or 2 pm and 4:30 pm. Visiting hours are from 9 am to 4 pm.

These sites' translation in English is scheduled to be in place within one month after opening.



Chengxianjie, where Kongmiao and Guozijian are located, has just finished its construction. CFP Photo

Paper tickets are passé

By Zhen Lu

The paper tickets used in Beijing since 1969 are no more as of this week, with the use of the new automatic fare collection (AFC) system at all subway stations starting Monday.

Unlike the former AFC system, which required passengers to swipe the mass transit smart card only once when they traveled by subway, the new AFC system requires two swipes, one for check-in and the other for check-out.

If you do not have a traffic card, you can buy a one-way magnetic strip ticket at the automatic machines or the ticket office inside the subway station.

Only the 1 yuan coin and the 5 or 10 yuan bank notes, are accept in the self-service machines. If the value of the banknote is more than 20 yuan, the passenger can go to the ticket office for change or just buy magnetic tickets

there directly.

Passengers can also go to the ticket office to have the coins changed to notes.

"When the passengers buy tickets from the machine by using a 10 yuan banknote, several coins of change will come out of the machine and they can be cumbersome. In such situations, they can come here to have their money change to notes which is more convenient for them to carry," the ticket office said.

The one-way ticket is only valid for the day and only at the station which sells the ticket and the ticket should be kept in good condition without bending, folding or defacing.

If the passenger loses the ticket or the ticket pops up from the AFC system and the machine indicates an error has occurred, the passenger then should go to the fare adjustment office for check-out.

New e-waste recycling spots

By Zhang Dongya

The China E-waste Organization and Quality Management Association for Electronics Industry started a Green E-waste recycling promotion on Monday to call on all citizens to hand over their waste electronic products, including accessories, batteries, cell phones and home appliances so as to protect the environment.

As many as 1,200 chain stores from Dixintong in the country and 83 stores from HP form the recycling network nationwide. In Beijing, a total of 136 stores from Dixintong began to receive the waste electronic products and distribute courtesy cards to people for encouragement. Recycling sites at HP now only receive the products of its own brand.

All the recycle sites are public on the Web site of the E-waste organization and some other scattered service sites and

small stores have also joined in to provide recycling service.

"Many waste electronic products were sold to non-regular recycling places and caused pollution to the environment during the treatment process. We aim to publicize scientific ways and ideas for recycling electronic waste properly and provide more sites to make it convenient for citizens," Xu Xiaolin, an E-waste organization staff member said.

The E-waste Organization of China, a branch institute of the China Electronics Energy Saving Technology Association, is a national non-profit organization working for circular economy with both government and industry to promote recycling and comprehensive utilization of electronic waste products.

Free service lines

400-7065858-1365 or

400-7065858-2365

Web site

e-waste.org.cn

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyi@ynet.com

My landlord told me that my rent needed to be increased from 2,500 yuan to 10,000 yuan. It is ridiculous. I want to know if this is happening to all tenants in Beijing or just me.

According to some local real estate research agencies, more apartments were successfully rented in May with a 5 percent growth compared to April and a 31 percent growth compared to the same time last year. The average rent for a normal residential apartment, not including the high-end ones, was 2,200 yuan per month. The average rent around the Olympic venues is much higher, reaching 4,200 yuan per month. Areas with even bigger price hikes are Fengtai, Shijingshan, Tongzhou and east 2nd and 3rd ring roads in the Chaoyang district. So obviously it is not just your landlord increasing the rent but still a 400 percent rent increase is too much and should not be tolerated.

Can you recommend some good websites for cheaper hotel and flight deals in China?

A lot of people are using ctrip.com or elong.com. They offer discounted hotel and flight deals. However, ctrip does not accept foreign credit cards. So if you want to book flights or hotels through ctrip, you need to have a credit card issued by a Chinese bank or pay them in cash. Ctrip has working staff to come to your door to pick up the money. Elong accepts foreign credit cards but charges extra service fees we heard. Elong's flight booking service does not work very well sometimes, according to our own experience.

(By Wei Ying)

7

Debate



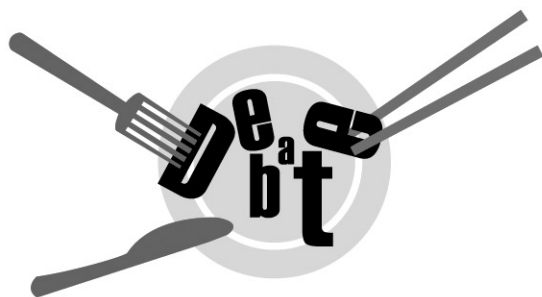
Peking Opera goes back to school

Rewards for relinquishing seats



Two kidney transplants rejected by regulations

Eastern and western viewpoints meet here



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文化差异的碰撞与融合



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7

Debate

Surviving in a s



Urgently! is an info-sculpture that explores such phenomena as information overload.

By He Jianwei

We are living in a world that operates on a different logic than the world, Frankenstein is no longer science fiction. We are now creating machines. "We are all cyborgs, and we are exploring the relationship between humans and machines." At the Museum of China, an exhibition of new media art form that uses digital technology, often in a way that is interactive and participatory capabilities, we are experiencing an era in which digital technology is becoming a universal medium.

Walking through a structure in front of the audience will hear acoustical sound. Spuybroek, the Rotterdam-based architect designed the structure, and another Dutch artist Edwige van der Sluis designed the sound installation.

Pneumatic Sound Field consists of a grid of controlled valves covering a plane measuring 10 meters. Wind traverse this field with differing speeds, creating patterns. The patterns are created in a generative way, based on the spatial movement of actual wind. The audience determines their own position within this environment.

"When the audience walks through the sound field, they get an idea of what kind of exhibition awaits them. The sound system informs them it will be a sound world," Spuybroek said.

The exhibition has been curated for two years. It includes works from 30 countries are involved in it. "We are looking at digital technologies. I always think about human beings, not just other, with machines, with reality and with sound," Spuybroek said.

The exhibition is organized around four themes including "Beyond Body," "Emotive Body," "Reality" and "Here, There and Everywhere." It explores the construction of time and space, we perceive reality through the human at the threshold of human-machine system.

In the lobby of the museum, 210 panels with text about economic and scientific issues of global significance. The ground of a display which is 21 meters long and 10 meters wide. Light emitting diodes the panels work like pixels. The display sign that can display text in various languages. It is inspired by Hildebrand's LED installation, "Vortex."

The audience can stand in the installation. "Vortices of information overload surround them. 'Vortices of information overload' is an exhausted central nervous system," Zhang said.

The two installations are works in the "Urgently!" series. "Everywhere." Everywhere in our lives, digital technology is everywhere. Whether or not we want to listen to them or see them, they are everywhere.

The exhibit called "Beyond Body," and "Emotive Body" attracted the most spectators. It is a work from the design collective team. "Touch Me" allows visitors to contribute a personal image to the otherwise impersonal images are created by interacting with a plate.

The participants can interact with this piece. They put part of their body or objects against a frosted glass. It leaves a kind of imprint for them and others to see. The installation, and an extra dimension is added as the permanent part of the installation and it can be seen by full size human bodies.

As the audience walks through a corridor, they will smell exotic odors. The installation is a sensory and smell installation named, "Fear 9" by Sissel Tolaas.

Since 2000, 20 men were selected from different backgrounds and on the fear of other bodies for different and less familiar. The men were given a specifically-designed piece of equipment which is a very small object that they can carry with them.

When they found themselves in a situation where they were from other bodies, they were instructed to put their arms. The equipment then recorded the temperature and sweat. This information was then used to simulate individual sweat in Tolaas' research lab.

The sweat smells were then micro-capsules. If scratched the microcapsules break open. The microcapsules were integrated into white wall. When the specially-painted wall can the smell be released.

Synthetic world

The five senses unite in the works of Synthetic Times – Media Art China 2008

on bits and bytes. In this
fiction and machines are
"Donna Haraway said, of
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The concept of sweat is adopted in another artist's work. In the "Emotive Digital" display, Paula Geatano Adi from Argentina created an autonomous robotic agent called Alexitimia.

Alexitimia is a clinical construction that describes the behavior of someone who is mostly unaware of his feelings, or does not know what they signify, and hence, is not able to talk about their emotions or their emotional preferences.

Alexitimia is also the name of this autonomous robotic agent whose behavior is analogous to the process of human sweating. This agent has very unusual and ambiguous behavior for a robot and contains software housed in a mobile body able that reacts rationally to its perception of the world around it.

Created with an organic appearance from soft and flexible materials, this robot cannot move around, it cannot see or emit sounds, and it cannot detect voices; however, it can interact with spectators through its body – by sweating when somebody touches it.

As the digital world has gained life, the creatures are "imbued with sensitivities that invigorate emotive and reciprocal understanding," Zhang said.

An artist from South Korea Kichul Kim put together an installation with graphite pencils, paper and audio gear. In his work, "Sound Drawing," visitors can hear the sound created by drawing with the pencils.

"The reason why I want to draw with sound is to show the power that paintings have through sound, as well. Whereas a picture leaves visual tracks, sound doesn't. I guess this is the element that differs mostly even though sound and visual media have many similarities. Thus, I wanted to create tracks of sound. Although sound is captured onto an audiotape or compact disc, it cannot be seen. I think we need a new system that can show the sound and visual as well; searching for such a thing might be categorized as a crucial part of my work," Kim said.

When the Korean artist turned the drawings into sound, the Chinese artist fostered similar communication through the common language of icons. Xu Bing's work, "Book From The Ground" is an experimental project that deals with the natural formation of a global language. Icons are ubiquitous symbols providing information without words, antidotes to misunderstanding in the enveloping sphere of world languages in the global electronic network.

In Xu's work, "language will be obsolete and communication will be made possible among the victims of the Tower of Babel," Zhang said.

In the installation titled, "Recombinant Reality," "mixed reality, virtual reality and acoustic environments reveal new types of reality that reshape our notion of existence," Zhang said.

Two artists from Brazil created an interactive installation, "OP_ERA: Sonic Dimension," which is designed in the form of a music box. The box is a black, open cube (three walls measuring three by three meters each) filled with hundreds of visually-identical violin-like strings.

Tuned with a specific tension, each virtual string vibrates with a visual-sound frequency (light and sound waves) that varies according to its relative position and mode of interaction.

"The combination of art and technology may not create a practical product, but it will foretell our lifestyle in the future," Fan Di'an, director of the National Art Museum of China, said.



Touch Me is an interactive installation that allows its users to create and contribute a personal image.



Only by touching the wall can the smell be released.



210 panels with icons address social, economic and scientific issues of global significance.



Alexithymic is an autonomous robotic agent whose behavior is analogous to the process of human sweating.



Viewers can hear the sound created by drawing with pencils

Synthetic Times – Media Art China 2008

Where: National Art Museum of China, 1, Wusi Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: June 10 – July 3

Tel: 6401 7076

The satellite exhibitions:

International Emerging Video Art

Where: Beijing Art Museum of Imperial City, 9, Chanpuheyan, Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: June 10 – July 3

Tel: 6523 9146

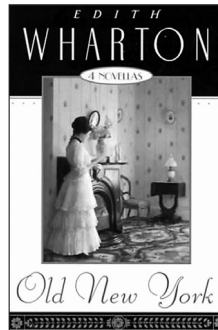
Between the Light and the Dark

Where: Arario Gallery, Jiuchang Art Complex, Beihuqu Lu, Anwaiweiyuan, Chaoyang District

When: June 10 – July 26

Tel: 5202 3800

Photos provided by National Art Museum



Everything and anything at Xizhimen Mall

CapitaRetail
Xizhimen Mall
Where: 1 Xizhimen
Wai Dajie, Xicheng
District
Tel: 8836 6969

15
Shopping

1

The joy of toys

You want to choose a terrific and very original ring for your best friend's birthday? Choose the "Superman ring" on the fourth floor of the mall. The outside of this dashing ring is silver and symbolizes courage and adventure and turns you into a superhero ready to thwart evil.

This toy store has an excellent bonus offer. If you buy any ring or other ornament, you will receive a free human skull and casket. Scary but a great conversation piece!

Where: A 36, fourth floor (F4)

By Sun Jina

CapitaRetail Xizhimen Mall, opened February 5, is a one-stop shopping, dining and entertainment emporium made up of several retail outlets distributed over seven floors, including a basement. With summer fast approaching, its mobile stands are offering exciting products.

Get into the pink

Give yourself some color this summer. Use small decorations to make big changes to your room. Create a pink kingdom. Think pink!

Girls, you do not need to rise early to begin your vast search for ornaments all over the city. The solution is to pick up this special ring box and put it on your nightstand.

The weather has crazy mood swings, but do not be crazy about your health. Carefully check your thermometer daily and then choose which sexy outfit suits the outside temperature.

Where: 13B, sixth floor (F6)
Price: 28-80 yuan



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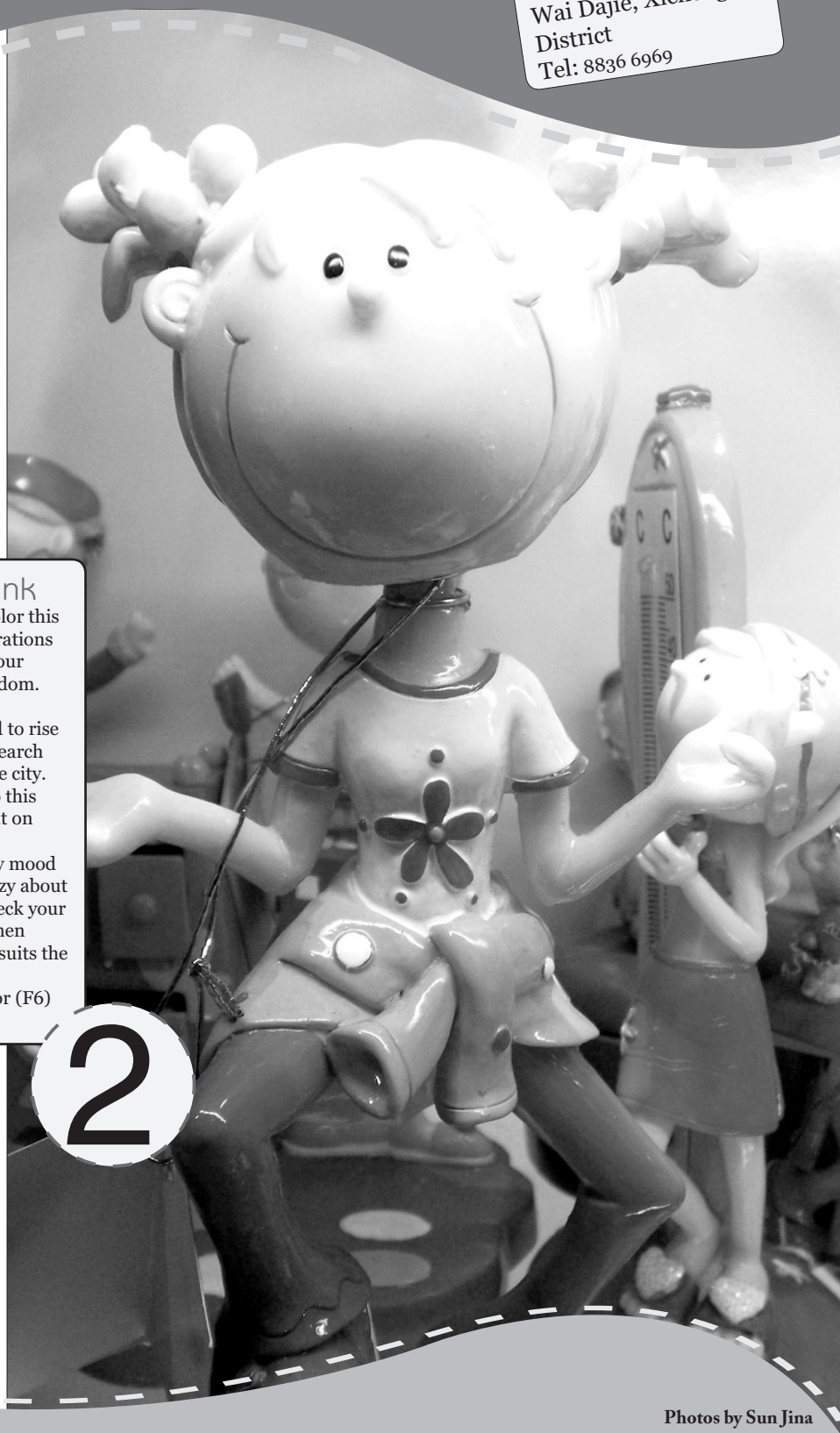


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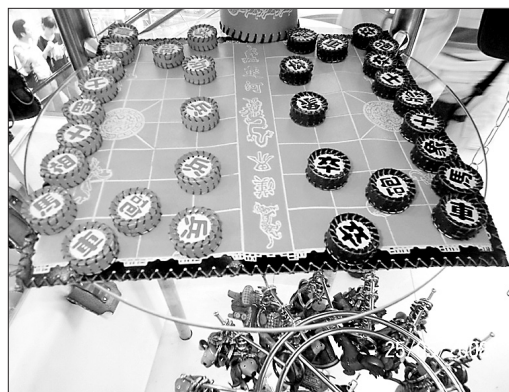


Photos by Sun Jina

3



Getting it off your chess



Yearning for younger bygone days playing chess with your neighbor? Were you the chess king in your school or college? Then do not miss this special. A beautiful handmade leather chess set. When the game is over, you can simply roll it up into a small carrying bag and take it anywhere. The best part is the price tag, only 280 yuan.

The stand also has a bird bag. When you buy a pure black or white bag, you need a small accessory to complement it. This owl purse is

a great choice. It is very cute and comes with a key chain. The front and back are connected by a nylon line and fixed solidly with rivets so it is very strong and durable. It costs between 30 and 60 yuan for the key chain and purse.

By the way, you can choose a doggy, piggy or any other cute animal character. There are also other specialized leather key chains.

Where: the first mobile store on the right side near the elevator on the third floor (F3)

Fuzzy kiwis a summer treat

By Gan Tian

Kiwifruit is a must if you want to enjoy a cool and healthy summer. *Beijing Today* has a guide to enjoying this woody, green fruit.



Named for the bird

Kiwifruits owe their name to the kiwi bird, a New Zealand native. The fruits are found in many regions of Europe, North America and South America, and are generally called "kiwis" or "Chinese gooseberries."

The fruit has a hairy, brown peel and green flesh, with white pulp in the center and black, edible seeds. The fruit has a sweet taste, similar to a mixture of banana, pineapple and strawberry. Kiwifruits are native to China, where they were originally called "macaque peaches."

In 1974, "kiwifruit" became the internationally-accepted name, replacing "Chinese gooseberry" and "kiwi."

Nutrition-wise, kiwifruits contain about as much potassium as bananas, and also contain 1.5 times the daily recommended intake of Vitamin C. They are also rich in Vitamins A and E, and their black seeds can be crushed to produce kiwi fruit oil.



Not from New Zealand

Many people take for granted that the kiwifruit "foreign," but it is actually native to the Yangtze Valley. Seeds were taken from China to New Zealand and planted in 1906. The trees yielded their first fruit four years later. Commercial planting began in New Zealand in 1940, and 20 years later, California, US, began to cultivate its own trees. The University of California's cooperative extension estimated the state had planted 3,200 hectares of kiwifruit by 1988.



Where to eat

Kiwifruit makes a great companion to ice-creams, breads and other fruits. It is more snack than dish. Try ordering kiwifruit ice-cream at the following restaurants.

Tiamo Italian Ice-cream

Where: 5-3, Zhidi Xingzuo, 9 Huayuanjie, Xicheng District
Tel: 5851 8227

Kang Shifu Sifang Niuroumian

Where: F1, Yangguang Lebo Shopping Center, E-1, Anzhen Xi Li, Chaoyang District
Tel: 5123 7669

Helimi Snacks

Where: A168, Dongzhimen Nei Dajie, Dongcheng District
Tel: 8402 7793

Lugang Xiaozhen

Where: 6 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang District
Tel: 6551 3533



Recipes

Beijing Today found two easy recipes which utilize kiwifruit. The dishes are packed with nutrients and fruity flavor, but are suspiciously free of fat.

Kiwi frozen yogurt pie

Ingredients

1-1/2 cups finely-crushed chocolate wafer cookies

6 tablespoons melted butter
1/2 cup toasted shredded coconut
2 pints raspberry frozen yogurt
3 kiwifruits, peeled and sliced
1/2 cup fresh raspberries
Chocolate syrup
Toasted coconut to garnish

Instructions

Mix together cookie crumbs, butter and coconut until well blended. Press evenly into bottom and sides of a 9-inch pie plate. Freeze until firm. Use an ice cream scoop to fill the pie crust with frozen yogurt, piling the scoops into a mound. Freeze until firm. Remove pie from freezer 10 minutes before serving. Garnish with kiwifruit and raspberries and drizzle with chocolate syrup. Sprinkle with toasted coconut if desired.

Yield: 6 to 8 servings

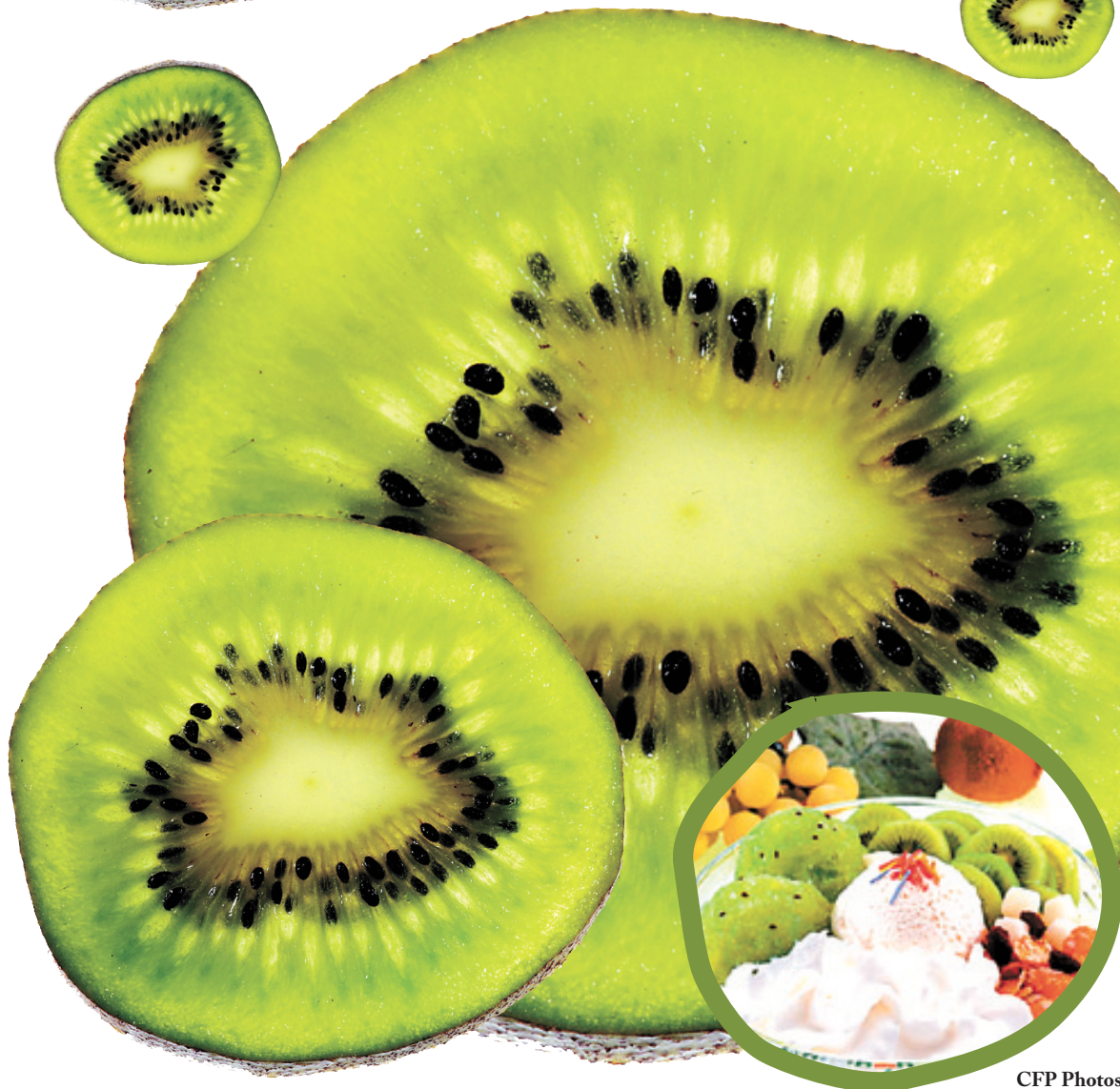
Blueberry-kiwi extreme

Ingredients

2 ripe kiwifruits, peeled
1 medium banana or 1 large banana, frozen
3 honey dates
2/3 cups blueberries (sugarless blueberry preserves also work, fresh or frozen)

Instructions

Pour hot or boiling water over the dates in a small bowl and let soak for 5-10 minutes, to soften. If using a less sweet date, you may want to include another one or two extra. Transfer the dates and other ingredients to the blender. You can reserve some blueberries for garnish if you like. Blend until smooth. Stir in the extra berries.



CFP Photos

Bring out your inner artist with Google images

By He Jianwei

When Google's image search meets photo-mosaic software, anyone can be an artist. Last Saturday, a Spanish artist presented his solo exhibition Googlegramas at the Institute Cervantes. The exhibition ends July 27. Joan Fontcuberta presents a series of conceptual photo-mosaics generated by using images he harvested from Google.



1



2

1. Payaso
2. Detail of Payaso
3. Otro
4. Detail of Otro
5. Peace
6. Detail of Peace

Photos provided by
Joan Fontcuberta

Fontcuberta takes a step back from the photographic process, using Google's image search engine to cull images from the Internet controlling only search phrases. These Google-selected images are then assembled into a larger image of Fontcuberta's choosing. The system then assembles a setting using various relationships between the model-image, the search phrase and local images.

Photo-mosaic software has been used in design and advertising since the mid-1990s. A photo-mosaic is a graphic resource in which a model-image is recreated using miniature images. From close up, the viewer can recognize the original graphics, but once you take a step or two back the observer can appreciate the whole composition. It is not an optical technique, but the sensations it generates in viewers have the same effect.

Fontcuberta's concept focuses on the juxtaposition of search-engine criteria against the larger image those criteria comprise. Penny-sized portraits of the richest men and women in the world are pieced together into a mosaic depicting a homeless man; the iconic image of a detainee tortured at Abu Ghraib is assembled from images of public officials involved in the scandal.

His work Peace, which is a picture of Daniela Ganishya Runyinya, a representative of Hutus from Rwanda, participating in the meeting in Mallorca, Spain, in 2004. Fontcuberta searched the word "peace" in 86 different languages. The nearly 10,000 images he obtained via Google were used like pixels to rebuild the main image.

The artist creates all his photo-mosaics using MacOSaix. In the exhibition hall, viewers can try using the software on a computer. Windows users can achieve the same effect with Mosaic Creator, Mosaicer, Mazaika and Andrea Mosaic. GNU/Linux users can Pixelize or Imosaic.



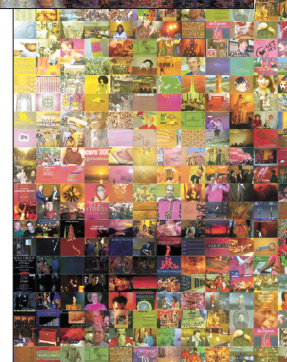
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6

NE•TIGER's Hua Fu auctioned for Sichuan

The commission to create a new Chinese gown and usher in a cultural renaissance of Chinese dress is something NE•TIGER takes seriously. The company is eager to get its dresses into social events of the season to promote both the brand and its beliefs. The latest endeavor was a charity auction in late May, in which NE•TIGER donated one of its classic HuaFu dresses. The proceeds from the auction will be used to support post-quake construction in Sichuan via the China Women Development Foundation charity.

The classic dress up for auction is from its Hua Fu series, which was inspired by the Chinese empress's formal robes. The tops combine the Western corset and Chinese front opening style to enhance the wearer's shape. The corset is made of Yunjin, an ancient Chinese fabric exclusively used by the royal family. The waistband is covered with red Swarovski crystals. The bell-bottom skirt is made of velvet satin.

Five historical colors

The series is divided into five color sections: red, green, yellow, blue and black. Each

can be traced back to ancient dynasties. Black was the favored color of Qin Dynasty (221-206BC), blue in Nanbei Dynasty (420-589) and green in Song Dynasty (960-1279). Yellow and red need no intro-

duction, as they have long been the symbolic colors of China. Designers try to use black, blue and blackish green as grounding to form a contrast with the exquisite embroidery work, beads and Swarovski crystals.

Traditional fabric techniques

NE•TIGER hopes to refresh the fashion culture using Jin and Xiu as materials to realize the five colors renaissance in a new look. Jin refers to the Yun Brocade fabric, which has

a 1,500-year history, which is classified as a UNESCO intangible heritage. Its handmade Zhuanghua process can turn out only 5 centimeters per day. The saying an "inch of Yun Brocade is an inch of gold" emphasizes its luxurious value. Xiu is a traditional Chinese weaving technique, which integrates embroideries such as Su, Yue, Xiang and Shu. Gowns made this way take several months to complete. Patterns like fans, lamps and loricae, which bear deep traditional fingerprints, are used to make the series both elegant and sexy.

Fusion wave

The cultures of the 55 Chinese minorities also provide inspiration for Hua Fu. Apart from Han, people can find typical styles of the Tibetan, Miao, Dai, Yi and Naxi minorities incorporated in Hua Fu dresses. Gorgette, damask, Italian baldachin, lace and Swarovski crystals are used to restate the Western gown, corsage, pleated skirt and fish skirt - NE•TIGER molds Western, modern fashion and tailoring technology to perfectly fit the Chinese woman's body.

(By Yu Shanshan)



Upcoming

Opera

Fire Bird

Who: Ballet San Jose
Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen
Nan Dajie, Chaoyang
When: June 13
Admission: 80-680 yuan
Tel: 6501 1854



Saturday, June 14

6

Exhibition

Milestones – Joint Exhibition

The exhibition features 11 artists from Japan
Where: Tokyo Gallery + BTAP, Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Daily 10:30 am – 5:30 pm, until July 13
Admission: Free
Tel: 8457 3245



Liu Qinghe Solo Exhibition

Artist Liu Qinghe explores new subjects in his signature style, using traditional principles of expressing ideas employing contemporary subject matter.

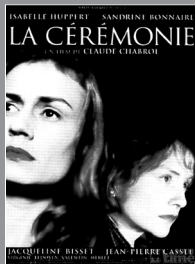


Where: Red Gate Gallery, Dongbianmen Watchtower, Chongwen
When: Daily 11 am – 6 pm, until July 13
Admission: Free
Tel: 6525 1005

The Promotion of Qiangyang Ancient Sachet Culture Week

The Qingyang Sachet is one of the most ancient cultural treasures of China. According to history, the first Sachet people can be traced back 1,000 years ago in Qingyang. The embroidery skills of the Sachet were passed on from generation to generation.

Where: Capital Museum China, 16 Fuxingmen Wai Dajie, Xicheng
When: Daily 9 am – 5 pm, until June 15
Admission: Free
Tel: 6339 3339



Movie

La Cérémonie

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang
When: 7:30 pm
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

5 Friday, June 13

Exhibition

New Vision – digital and video exhibition

A media art exhibition about body, imagination and living space. New vision features Dai Jieli, He Yingbin, Liu Jinhua, Ou Jianda, Wu Danmiao, Xu Meiling, Yu Qiuming, Zheng Haotian and Zhou Ziwei from the Chinese mainland and Huang Bozhi, Peng Jingrong and Wang Yahui from Taiwan.

Where: Expol-Sources Art Space, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Tue-Sun 10:30 am – 6:30 pm, until June 29
Admission: Free
Tel: 6431 4793



China Praise – Wang Limin Solo Exhibition

Where: Imagine Gallery, 8 Art Studio, Feijiacun Dong Lu, Cuigezhuang, Laiguangying Dong Lu, Chaoyang

When: 6 pm – 9 pm, until September 5
Admission: Free
Tel: 6438 5747



Olivier Mosset

Where: DoART Gallery, 261 Caochangdi, Changyang
When: Tue-Sun 10 am – 6 pm, until July 13
Admission: Free
Tel: 8457 4550, 8477 5158

Movie

Gabrielle

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang
When: 7:30 pm
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627



7 Sunday, June 15

Exhibition

The Ideals' Boundary – Group Exhibition

The exhibition features eight young artists.

Where: Sound First Gallery, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 9 am – 7 pm, until June 27
Admission: Free
Tel: 6431 2501

Insinuations – Joint Exhibition of 12 Photographers

Where: TS1 gallery, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Tue-Sun 10 am – 6 pm, until July 4
Admission: Free
Tel: 6433 1588



Time for Flower Bloom – Xiang Chunsheng Solo Exhibition

Where: China Visual Arts Center, Zone D, 1 Art Area, Hegezhuang, Cuigezhuang, Chaoyang
When: Tue-Sun 9 am – 6 pm, until July 9
Admission: Free
Tel: 6432 6755

Movie

Mademoiselle

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang
When: 7:30 pm
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

Stage in July

Concert

Bai Liang Violin Solo Concert

Who: Bai Liang
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng
When: 7:30 pm, July 9
Admission: 120-380 yuan
Tel: 6559 8306

Concert Opera Fidelio

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People
Who: China National Symphony Orchestra
When: 7:30 pm, July 6-9
Admission: 50-380 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Concert by Macao Chinese Orchestra

Who: Macao Chinese Orchestra
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng
When: 7:30 pm, July 12-13
Admission: 30-380 yuan
Tel: 6559 8306

Alban Berg Quartet Concert

Who: Alban Berg Quartet
Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People
When: 7:30 pm, July 15-16
Admission: 80-580 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

One World, One Dream – Olympic Symphony Orchestra

Who: Sino-American Artists
Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People
When: 7:30 pm, July 27
Admission: 80-780 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Opera

Aida

Who: Cairo Opera House
Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People
When: 7:30 pm, July 12-13
Admission: 180-880 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Tosca

Who: Rome Opera House
Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People
When: 7:30 pm, July 17-20
Admission: 180-880 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Dance

Kataklo Athletic Dance

Where: PKU Centennial Memorial Hall, 116 Zhongguancun Bei Dajie, Haidian
When: 7 pm, July 11-12
Admission: 20-280 yuan
Tel: 6275 8452

Epic Dance along the River during Qingming Festival

Who: Hong Kong Dance Company
Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People
When: 7:30 pm, July 16-17
Admission: 100-600 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

(By Li Jing)

Sunglasses for eye care, not eye flare

By Zhang Dongya

Varied sunglasses are now appearing en masse on the street with the arrival of the bright summer. However, few wear them for the sake of eye health, instead, they are merely a fashion statement. In fact, when modern-style sunglasses came out in the 1930s, they were produced and designed to protect people's eyes from the sun. They should be looked upon as care for your eyes and not just a way to look "cool."

Eyes need sun block

The sun produces many different kinds of light and all light is a form of energy. When eyes absorb light, the process creates heat or chemical reactions in eye tissue, which can cause permanent damage to eyes.

The most likely to injure the eyes is ultraviolet radiation, which is invisible and is often called "UV rays", bright or intense light and blue light.

UV rays carry more energy than visible light rays, so the eye is at greater risk of damage from absorbing UV radiation. There are two types of UV rays that reach the Earth's surface, UVA and UVB. These rays can lead to serious eye damage, including cataracts, cancer, snow blindness, and more commonly, photokeratitis, which is a sort of eye sunburn. UVB rays have also been linked to skin cancer. Most of the damage caused to eyes by UVB and UVA rays happens over a long period of time and is irreversible.

Blue light is visible light in the blue portion of the color spectrum. The intense glare of light reflecting off snow or water contains blue light. Your eyes cannot focus clearly in blue light. Some scientists believe that routine exposure to blue light over many years may age the retina and increase the risk of blindness in some people over the age of 60.

Sunglasses maintenance

Firstly, when you put your glasses down, you should always fold them up and place them into a case or bag. Don't leave them elsewhere casually, or they will be easily scratched or distorted.

Secondly, keep them away from any place with bad ventilation and direct sunlight, such as the top of your car's dashboard.

In addition, when the lenses are dusty or stained, don't rub them directly with the glasses towel as the dust will scratch the lenses. The correct way is to wash the lenses first in cold water or mild cleanser and then dry them with a small soft cloth.

Other tips

1. No matter what kind of lenses you choose, don't forget to check them for distortion by putting the sunglasses on and looking at a rectangular pattern, such as floor tiles. If the lines stay straight when you move your head up and down, and side-to-side, then the amount of distortion is acceptable.

2. People with different facial shapes like a round face, thin face or square one will need different styles of sunglasses to suit their face's shape. Poorly-fitted sunglasses may not provide enough

Selecting your shades

When shopping for sunglasses, you should consider other factors besides the price and style. Think more along lines of health rather than fashion.

UV protection index

The first and the most important standard for sunglasses is its UV protection index. Look for labels that list the type and amount of protection, and make sure the glasses block out both UVA and UVB rays.

They are often classified into three categories with different block indexes; cosmetic sunglasses, general purpose and special purpose sunglasses. Among them, the general purpose sunglasses are good for driving, with its blocking index from 60 to 92 percent of visible light and UVA rays, and between 95 and 99 percent of UVB rays.

Lens categories

Lenses made from real glass provide little protection at all, while the plastic ones are tougher and provide adequate UV protection. It is better to choose the Polycarbonate plastic lenses with a scratch-resistant coating.

Polarizing lenses which are designed to cut glare due to reflection, are good for driving and outdoor activities in the snow or on water.

Photochromic lenses are also a good option since they change with the intensity of UV light by turning darker when outdoors and lighter when indoors.

Lens colors

For the most part, the color of the lenses in sunglasses shouldn't make a difference in protection.

Most of the sunglasses are very dark these days. Make sure the lenses are dark enough to keep your eyes comfortable, but not so dark that they reduce your vision, since it can become dangerous for driving later in the day.

The gradually-tinting sunglasses which became popular recently have come back into fashion. But they don't suit everybody, since the intensity of light changes so quickly from top to bottom that it makes a lot of people feel a little bit dizzy. So be careful when you choose the gradual tints.

protection. Also, you may be less likely to wear glasses that feel awkward or uncomfortable. And when glasses are too small or too large, they may allow light in from the sides.

3. Sunglasses are still required for those who feel uncomfortable wearing them. If you wear eyeglasses, try prescription sunglasses, tinting your eyeglasses, or clip-on lenses with UV protection. New contact lenses are available with enhanced protection, but sunglasses should still be worn.

If you follow all these tips, you have got it made in the shade.

The most beautiful bridges

Bridge styles vary wildly from place to place and people to people. The art of their construction goes back to ancient times. Some survive only a few decades or centuries, and others are built with the advanced skill and technology to survive the millennia.

Wired, an American magazine, shared the beauty of 13 bridges last month. *Beijing Today* has selected five of them to cover this week. One is notable for its age, and the others for their shape, height or ability to bridge the continents.

Elegance

Erasmusbrug, Rotterdam, Netherlands

Every city should have a great piece of symbolic architecture. Erasmusbrug (Erasmus Bridge) is a cable-stayed bridge across the Nieuwe Maas River, linking the northern and southern halves of the city of Rotterdam, Netherlands. The 808-meter-long bridge has a 139-meter-high asymmetrical pylon, earning the bridge its nickname, "The Swan."

The southern span of the bridge has an 89-meter long movable bridge for ships that cannot pass under it. The bridge is the largest and heaviest in West Europe and has the largest panel of its type in the world.

It officially was opened by Queen Beatrix in 1996, having cost about €75 million to construct. Shortly after the bridge opened to traffic in October 1996, it was discovered it would swing under particularly strong wind conditions. To reduce trembling, stronger shock dampeners were installed.

The bridge was featured in the 1998 Jackie Chan film *Who Am I?* In 2005 several planes flew underneath the bridge as part of the "Red Bull Air Race."

Love locks

Ponte Vecchio, Florence, Italy

The Ponte Vecchio, Italian for Old Bridge, is a Medieval bridge over the Arno River in Florence, Italy. The bridge first appears in a document in 996. After being destroyed by a flood in 1117, it was reconstructed in stone but swept away again in 1333. It was rebuilt in 1345.

The bridge consists of three segmented arches: the main arch spans 30 meters, the two side-arches each span 27 meters. The rise of the arches is between 3.5 and 4.4 meters.

In order to connect the Palazzo Vecchio, Florence's town hall, with the Palazzo Pitti, the famous Vasari Corridor was built above it in 1565. To enforce the prestige of the bridge, in 1593 the Medici Grand Dukes prohibited butchers from selling there; their place was immediately taken by gold merchants. The corporative association of butchers had monopolized the shops on the bridge since 1442.

During World War II, the Ponte Vecchio was not destroyed by Germans during their retreat of August 4, 1944, unlike all other bridges in Florence. This was allegedly because of an express order by Hitler. Access to Ponte Vecchio was, however, obstructed by the destruction of the buildings at both ends.

Along the Ponte Vecchio, there were many padlocks attached to various places, especially to the railing around the statue of Benvenuto Cellini. This is a recent tradition for the Ponte Vecchio, although it was practiced in Russia and in Asia before. It was perhaps introduced by the padlock shop owner at the end of the bridge. It is popularly connected to idea of love and lovers: by locking the padlock and throwing the key into the river, the lovers became eternally bonded.

This is an example of the negative impact of mass tourism: thousands of padlocks needed to be removed frequently, spoiling or damaging the structure of the centuries-old bridge; however, it seems to have decreased since the city administration put a sign on the bridge that locking anything to the fence would incur a €50 penalty.



Ponte Vecchio, a very old bridge

Photo provided by Pbase.com



The elegant Erasmusbrug is called "The Swan" by locals.

CFP Photos

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... continued from page 20

East and West

Bosphorus Bridge, Istanbul, Turkey

The Bosphorus Bridge, also called the First Bosphorus Bridge, spans the Bosphorus strait in Istanbul, Turkey. The bridge is located between Ortakoy (European side) and Beylerbeyi (Asian side). It is a gravity-anchored suspension bridge with steel pylons and inclined hangers. The aerodynamic deck hangs on zigzagged steel cables. It is 1,510 meters long and 39 meters wide. It was the fourth longest suspension bridge span in the world when completed in 1973, and the longest outside the US.

The decision to build a bridge across the Bosphorus Strait was taken in 1957 by Prime Minister Adnan Menderes of Turkey. For the structural engineering work, a contract was signed with the British firm Freeman Fox and Partners in 1968. The bridge was designed by famous Brit-

ish civil engineer Sir Gilbert Roberts, who also designed the Humber Bridge, Severn Bridge, Forth Road Bridge, Auckland Harbour Bridge and the Volta River Bridge.

It was completed on October 30, 1973, one day after the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of Turkey. Ernest Frederick, a civil engineer working for the US government and stationed in Turkey at the time, was the first US national to cross the bridge. Comedian and UNICEF ambassador Danny Kaye dressed like a clown and was followed by a pack of Turkish children. As a huge crowd of people started to run after them, the bridge began to vibrate, and the crowd had to be held back to avoid damaging the bridge. Bridge construction cost US \$200 million.



The Bosphorus Bridge connects Asia and Europe.

Kimono obi

Kintai Bridge, Iwakuni, Japan

The elegance of this bridge inspired its name *Kintai*, Japanese for gold brocade sash, because of its similarity to the traditional Nishiki obi for kimono. Kintai Bridge is located in Iwakuni, Yamaguchi Prefecture, western Japan.

It is about 200 meters long and crosses the Nishiki River. Its wooden structure consists of five arches, each 5 meters wide, 6.6 meters high and spanning 40 meters. Along with Nihonbashi bridge in Tokyo and Meganebashi bridge in Nagasaki, it is one of the country's three most famous.

The challenge was to build a bridge that would not get washed away. Even by the standards of modern bridge building, Kintai Bridge is an example of brilliant engineering. Moreover, the arches were built using metal straps and clamps for a structure of incomparable workmanship.

Starting in the year 1600, time and time again, people

tried to build a bridge across the Nishiki River, but high water broke every effort. They realized that the bridges were pushed down by stuck driftwood, and so they studied how to build an arching bridge with no pillars. Four stone-walled islands were built spaced across the river to support five spans. Piers were built at the two ends of the bridge, but in the middle, three arches were built without piers. It took almost a decade of research, experimentation and test construction before the bridge was completed in three months in 1673.

One year later, the bridge was washed away because the footing of the stone piers was weak. Improvements were made and a stronger bridge was constructed. This one lasted 276 years until a large typhoon washed it away in 1950, but it was rebuilt in 1953.

Today, the bridge is illuminated at night and it is a great spot to view cherry blossoms in spring, the changing leaves in the autumn and fishing in the summer.



Kintai Bridge

Photos provided by Pbase.com

Across the sky

Millau Viaduct, Millau, France

The Millau Viaduct is a large cable-stayed road-bridge that spans the valley of the River Tarn near Millau in southern France. Designed by the structural engineer Michel Virlogeux, it is the tallest vehicular bridge in the world, with one mast's summit at 343 meters - slightly taller than the Eiffel Tower and only 38 meters shorter than the Empire State Building. It was formally dedicated in December, 2004. The feeling of driving on the bridge is

like driving in the sky.

Located in southern France, the bridge connects the motorway from Paris to Barcelona at the point where it is interrupted by the River Tarn, which runs through a wide gorge. A reading of the topography suggested two possible approaches: to cross the river or spanning 2.5 kilometers from one plateau to the other in the most economical manner.

Before the bridge was constructed, traffic had to descend into the Tarn River valley and pass along the route national N9 near the town of Millau, causing heavy congestion at the beginning and end of the July and August vacation season. The bridge now traverses the Tarn valley above its lowest point, linking the Causse du Larzac to the Causse Rouge, and is inside the perimeter of the Grands Causses regional natural park.

Other bridges

Tower Bridge, London, England
Gateshead Millennium, northern England
The Forth Bridge, Edinburgh, Scotland
Magdeburg Water Bridge, eastern Germany
The Akashi Kaikyo Bridge, links Kobe with Awaji-shima Island, Japan
The Oresund Bridge, carries rail and road traffic between Copenhagen, Denmark, and Malmo, Sweden.
Sydney Harbor Bridge, Australia
The Brooklyn Bridge, New York, US

(By Jackie Zhang)



Driving on Millau Viaduct is like flying in the sky.

CFP Photo



Mike Joseph is National Corporate Training Manager of ClarkMorgan

When silence is not golden



ClarkMorgan Corporate Training

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Beijing Chengdu Dalian Guangzhou Hefei Nanjing Qingdao Shanghai Shenzhen Suzhou Wuhan

By Mike Joseph

The other day I was visiting a US client and they explained that they could not get their staff to really become involved in team teleconferences. Their teleconferences are conducted with their US partners across the Pacific. The client shared with me the fact that his staff would often remain silent during the meetings and were steamrolled by their US colleagues. Although he knew that his local staff had great ideas and valuable input to offer, they consistently clammed up whenever they spoke on the phone. It became clear that the problem was a lack of confidence when they tried to speak English, as well as struggling to understand foreign accents across the waves. My client informed me that they had spent many hours training their staff using English language schools, but this training had not brought the desired results.

After meeting the staff, it became evident that actually the issue was less about language skills and more to do with confidence. The staff explained that they stayed quiet during the meetings because they actually did not know what their colleague's real purpose was for the meeting and therefore did not want to waste time bringing up irrelevant topics. Also mentioned was the fact that they felt their language skills were limited and they did not want to show their weakness to their colleagues. They finally stated that they

regarded asking for clarification during a meeting as a further show of weakness and failure to understand.

I agreed to sit in on the next teleconference and saw with my own eyes the issues at hand. Once the meeting began, the local team physically sat back and waited for their US counterparts to take control by working through the agenda. As a result, the US partners assumed the dominant position, did not direct many questions to their Chinese staff and did not provide adequate time for feedback. The local team members provided short, one-word answers to any questions asked and in the end the topic they really wanted to address was passed over very quickly, without a suitable conclusion. At times, it was clear to me that the US team was using colloquial language that the local members did not fully grasp and silence eventually prevailed.

Overcoming these issues can be quite challenging, but it is possible. Here are five practical solutions which increased the effectiveness of my client's teleconferences. If you are facing similar problems with your work force then apply these solutions for smoother and more productive meetings.

1. Make sure that your local staff are fully up to speed on the meeting agenda.
2. Make sure that all participants have an individual topic to introduce or task to complete so that they must pay attention.

"Once the meeting began, the local team physically sat back and waited for their US counterparts to take control by working through the agenda. As a result, the US partners assumed the dominant position, did not direct many questions to their Chinese staff and did not provide adequate time for feedback."

3. Encourage your local team members to communicate privately with the international participants prior to the meeting. This will allow them to know each other's concerns before the meeting begins.

4. Promote the concept of clarification in meetings; be certain that your local team members grasp their foreign colleagues clarifying, and of course you must lead by example.

5. Encourage your international colleagues to use KISS language (Keep It Short and Simple). If they use colloquial language too frequently then gently remind them that it is not always easy for everybody to understand.

By introducing and emphasizing these solutions, you will create an environment where communication becomes two-way, clear and simple. Your staff will feel more fulfilled and your entire company will benefit from the opinions and ideas of your top local talent.

Aviation

British Airways launches BA miles option for Chinese customers

From June 17, British Airways customers in China will be able to earn and redeem BA Miles, British Airways Executive Club's global mileage currency, in addition to "oneworld Asia Miles."

In addition to giving customers unprecedented choice in mileage pro-

grams from June 17, travelers on British Airways can earn even more miles than they do now. Passengers traveling on FIRST will earn 200 percent of miles flown (from 150 percent), Club World, 150 percent (from 125 percent) and World Traveller Plus Premium Economy, 125 percent (from 110 percent).

Visit ba.com/bamiles for more information.

Nightlife

First live hip-hop Concert in Beijing

Where: Vics, East side of Gongti North Gate, Chaoyang

When: 9 pm, June 14

Admission: 100 yuan

Tel: 5293 0333

Wu Kejia and Gao Bo joint concert

Where: New Get Luck Bar (Haoyun), A1 Xingba Lu, Nuren Jie, Chaoyang

When: 9:30 pm, June 18

Admission: Free

Tel: 8448 3335

Outdoors

Journey to Moon Island

Moon Island, named after its shape, covers an area of 430 square meters. Mostly unexplored, the land maintains its natural state. Fish, shrimp and rare precious birds can be seen here. Abundant seafood and lots of outdoor activities are offered such as fishing and motor boating.

The gentle breeze will refresh you. In the evening, you can walk along the sea-coast and listen to the sound of the sea as it crashes on the shore or hold a bonfire party with other friends under the moonlight. Later, wander back to the Dutch style wooden house above the sea and kick back as you stare out the moonlit windows.

Where: meet in front of the Swissotel Beijing (Exit C, Dongsishitiao Railway Station)

When: 8 am - 6 pm (next day), July 14-15

Cost: 650 yuan (adult), 450 yuan (child

under 12)

Contacts: 13910150509 or info@pixieadventures.com (reservations are essential)

Laoniawan Valley, Yellow River and Great Wall

Laoniawan is one of the most beautiful valleys in China. Heading out from Datong, the long, narrow road circles sweeping mountains, dipping on one side to terraced, green fields interspersed with cave houses built into the loess cliffs. To the other side is the vast Yellow River, curving like a giant emerald glass snake around rough yet green terrain jutting into the water. The steep route on a remote road leads to a magic valley - Laoniawan.

When: fly to Datong on June 13 and take an overnight train back to Beijing on June 15

Cost: 3,400 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (reservations are essential)

Hotel

Big Daddy delights

Free flowing Piper-Heidsieck champagne and countless varieties of beer, wine and cocktails are offered to celebrate Father's Day. Live cooking stations will be set up featuring specialties like Peking duck, fresh homemade Italian pasta, and an outdoor BBQ with all the meats and cuts. Decadent desserts, handcrafted chocolates, roving live entertainment and personal gifts assure your Dad will have a unique Father's Day.

Where: the Westin Beijing, 9B Jinrong Jie, Xicheng

Open: 11:30 am - 3 pm, June 15

Cost: 368 yuan (alcoholic), 298 yuan (non-alcoholic), and 148 yuan (children under 12). All prices are subject to a 15 percent service charge.

Tel: 6606 8866

(By Li Jing)

If you have any info for this page, please send it to lixiaojing@ynet.com

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at gantian@ynet.com.

Hare today, gone tomorrow

By Charles Zhu

One day Dave, one of my American friends, invited me to a bar and restaurant in northern Boston where a strong English tradition and style persisted. Frankly speaking, I was very much fond of things English. As you know, ever since my formative years when I began to learn the language, it was the English life as described in the works of Shakespeare, James Austin and Charles Dickens that struck my fancy the most.

It was a very nice cafe furnished in an English style in every way. Even the lovely waitresses spoke with a beautiful London-accent instead of the Yankee drawl with which we were so familiar. Dave asked me to order. I perused the menu and was very much struck by the item called "Welsh rarebit." It was not that I knew the dish rather that I found the name fanciful and interesting and wanted to know what it was like. I called the waitress over and said,

"Madam, we wish to have Welsh rarebit."

"Do you mean Welsh rabbit, sir?"

"No," I said, "It's Welsh rarebit."

Dave laughed and chimed in. "Come on, chum, Welsh rarebit is Welsh rabbit. Rarebit is the result of folk etymology."

OK, rarebit is rabbit. Anyway, let's have it.

We chatted and waited patiently for the Welsh rabbit to come to our table. I was tired of pork, beef and mutton and wished to treat my taste buds to a completely different kind of meat cooked in Welsh style.

The blond beauty brought a dish of cheese melted and cooked with milk and eggs and poured over crackers. It was served piping hot.

In my ignorance, I was still waiting for the rabbit to arrive. After a long while, I asked Dave what was holding up the delivery of my rabbit dish.

He said in amazement, "It's right in front of you on the table, my friend."

"It's this bloody dish of cheese?"

"Yes, it is." He explained to me that this is a very popular and classic British dish that consists of a melted mixture of

sharp cheddar cheese, beer, ale or milk and seasonings served over toast, accompanied by Worcester sauce and a hint of cayenne pepper. Welsh rabbit is often accompanied with tomatoes. He said, "The Welsh rabbit becomes a golden buck when topped with a poached egg. My grandmother used to make this when I was a kid. It's very good over white toast and tastes best when made with an ale or strong beer. This is a very tangy dish uniquely in Welsh style! I have not had it for a long time. It's like meeting an old friend."

"Why is it called Welsh rabbit?" I said.

Dave said, "It is possible that adding beer to moldy cheese and toasting stale bread to

make a reasonably appetizing meal could have represented a substitute for rabbit for people suffering in abject poverty. Or, it is possible that in an age when practically everyone knew how to snare a rabbit for the pot, a Welshman was considered to be so lazy and inept that snaring a rabbit for dinner was beyond his abilities. Cheese and bread had to do instead."

"Where do we get the term, 'rarebit'?" I asked with great linguistic interest.

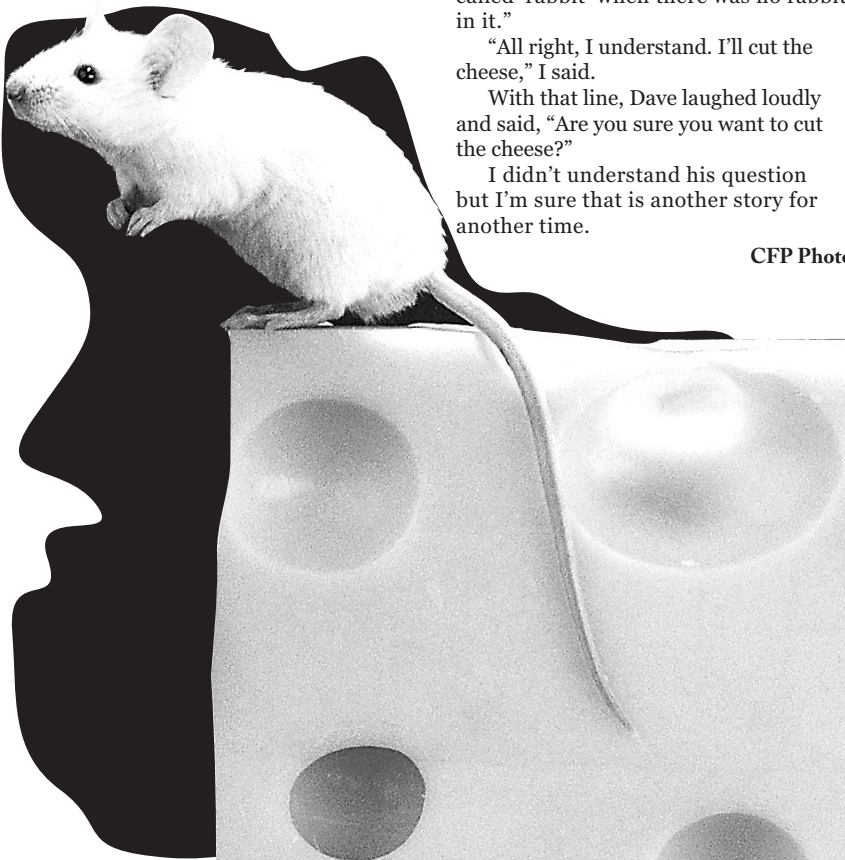
"From the Victorian period onward, the dish is often referred to in recipe books as 'rarebit,' a term presumably made up by people who didn't understand, as you do now, why the dish was called 'rabbit' when there was no rabbit in it."

"All right, I understand. I'll cut the cheese," I said.

With that line, Dave laughed loudly and said, "Are you sure you want to cut the cheese?"

I didn't understand his question but I'm sure that is another story for another time.

CFP Photo



This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send it to gantian@ynet.com together with your name and address.

No need to work every place



By Derrick Sobodash

The Olympics are approaching fast and the crunch is on to fix the rest of the city's signs. Despite several years of Chinglish clean-up efforts, major attractions like the Beijing Zoo continue to display tortured

text at their front gates.

In this week's example, we have a sign found between the zoo's ticketing windows. Calling the recorded guide an "Automatic Guide" is perfectly fine. However, the rest of the sign, "It's Automatic, You needn't any work when you get the every place Enter the Beijing zoo and turn right you can get the device," is not.

While comprehensible, this Chinglish certainly casts doubt on the quality of the park's Automated Guide.

An immediately apparent problem is the use of the verb "to work." Work is a very broad concept, and it is usually associated with some manual task. Sweat, labor and all that fun stuff. In this case, the intended meaning is likely closer to "effort." The Automatic Guide will announce the infor-

mation to you, and you do not need to make an effort to locate and read each animal's placard.

Telling readers that the Automatic Guide is automatic is redundant at best -- most parks do not distribute manual Automatic Guides. Similarly, where is the "every place"? It would make more sense to state that the device works throughout the park, assuming that it does.

A better sentence would be, "The guide will provide information on exhibits throughout the park." Do not forget the full stop.

The final line could be revised slightly to say, "Turn right after the entrance to rent a guide." One would hope that zoo-goers already know they are in Beijing and are at a zoo. **Photo by Liu Chenlu**

Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch it for each week.

Local professor: Zhu Shida

1. Disseminate the idea of bio-ecology

Linguistically, this idea is not wrong by any means. However, it is incorrect in terms of idea and logic. It is indeed the task of scientists who are charged with the dissemination of bio-ecology as a science. It is not the case with the example sentence in context. The writer is talking about disseminating the knowledge of being friendly bio-ecologically with the environment. If you say "ideas of bio-ecology" it means ideas concerning the science of bio-ecology. If you are talking about environmental protection, you will have to say "ideas of being friendly bio-ecologically to the environment." This example demonstrates that if you want to be a good English writer, you have to be competent not only grammatically but also logically.

2. Telecommunication

Please remember when you are talking about "long-distance communication by radio, telegraph, telephone, television or e-mail," you have to say "Telecommunications" in the plural form.

3. I visited the construction of the Bird's Nest

The problem with this sentence is a matter of collocation. Construction is the act or progress of building or the manner or method of building. Can you visit such things? Never. So, you must say, "I visited the construction site of the Bird's Nest," or "I visited the Bird's Nest."

Native Speaker: Joe Edwards

1. Disseminate the idea of bio-ecology

As Mr. Spock would say, "This is not logical, Jim." Grammatically, the example phrase gets an "A" but logically it is a tad off-center. We get the impression that the writer is talking about breaking down the scientific aspect of bio-ecology which really should be the job of the scientist, not the writer who is in actuality talking about the environment. To make the idea perfectly clear, write it like this, "Disseminate the idea of being bio-ecologically friendly to the environment." Yes, it is a mouthful but it is so logical now that it would make even Mr. Spock's pointy little ears tingle.

2. Telecommunication

The above term is one of those terms that insists, and rightfully so, to be written in the plural form. It is the right thing to do. Please don't fight it or the telephone company may disconnect your service. It must be written, "Telecommunications." Thank you. Please deposit another 25 cents to continue this conversation.

3. I visited the construction of the Bird's Nest

Is it possible to visit the writing of a song? Is it possible to visit the baking of a cake? If you said yes, please go the back of the class and hang your head in shame. It is a mission impossible to actually visit something in the "process" of being completed. You can visit the end result of such progress but that is as far as you can go. You must say, "I visited the construction site of the Bird's nest." Or, simply get simple and say, "I visited the Bird's Nest."



Movie of the week

Iron Man, directed by Jon Favreau, recently exploded at the box office. This superhero movie, adapted from the comic book series of the same name, is a masterpiece from Marvel Studios with its incredible visual effects and excellent acting. The film couldn't miss with incredible talents like Oscar nominee Robert Downey Jr. and Oscar winner Gwyneth Paltrow.

Synopsis

Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr.), a billionaire industrialist and genius inventor, is captured by a guerilla army when touring Afghanistan. Here he discovers, much to his dismay, that his weapons are used by anyone who seeks to control others, the very opposite of his positive propaganda that claims his weapons are being used to defend freedom. He makes his escape and sets out on a new course to build a high-tech suit of armor to beat back the thugs he unknowingly empowered with his own weapons.

IRON MAN

SCENE 1:

AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE

Christine Everheart: Mr. Stark! Christine Everheart, *Vanity Fair* magazine. Can I ask you a couple of questions?

Hogan: (*whispers to Stark*) She is cute.

Tony Stark: (*whispers to Hogan*) She is alright?

(*turns around*)

Tony Stark: Hi!

Christine Everheart: Hi.

Tony Stark: Yeah. OK, go.

Christine Everheart: You've been called the Da Vinci of our time. What do you say to that?

Tony Stark: Absolutely ridiculous. I don't paint.

Christine Everheart: And what do you say to your other nickname, the Merchant of Death?

Tony Stark: That's not bad. Let me guess ... Berkeley?

Christine Everheart: Brown, actually.

Tony Stark: Well, Ms. Brown. It's an imperfect world, but it's the only one we got. I guarantee you the day weapons are no longer needed to keep the peace, I'll start making bricks and beams for⁽⁹⁾ baby hospitals.

Christine Everheart: Rehearse that much?

Tony Stark: Every night in front of the mirror before bedtime.

Christine Everheart: I can see that.

Tony Stark: I'd like to show you firsthand.

SCENE 2:

AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE

Tony Stark: I never got to say goodbye to my father. There are questions I would've asked him. I would have asked him how he felt about what his company did, if he was conflicted, if he ever had doubts. Or maybe he was every inch⁽³⁾ of the man we remember from the newsreels. I saw young Americans killed by the very weapons I created to defend them and protect them. And I saw that I had become part of a system that is comfortable with zero-accountability⁽⁴⁾.

Press Reporter #1: Mr. Stark, what happened over there?

Tony Stark: I had my eyes opened. I came to realize that I had more to offer this world than just making things that blow up. And that is why, effective immediately, I am shutting down the weapons manufacturing division of Stark Industries.

SCENE 3:

IN THE ARMORED SUIT

Jim Rhodes: (*talking over phone*) What the hell is that noise?

Tony Stark: I'm driving with the top down⁽⁵⁾.

Jim Rhodes: Well, I need your help right now.

Tony Stark: Funny how that works, huh?

Jim Rhodes: Yeah. Speaking of funny, we got a weapons depot that was just blown up a few clicks⁽⁶⁾ from where you were being held.

Tony Stark: Well, I'd say that's a hot spot. Sounds ... (*takes a breath*)

Tony Stark: Like someone stepped in and did your job for you.

Jim Rhodes: Why do you sound out of breath, Tony?

Tony Stark: I'm not. I was just jogging through the canyon.

Jim Rhodes: I thought you were driving.

Tony Stark: Right, I was driving ... to the canyon ... where I'm going for a jog.

Jim Rhodes: You sure you don't have any tech in that area I should know about?

Tony Stark: Nope.

Jim Rhodes: Good, because we got a lock on something and we're about to blow it to kingdom come⁽⁷⁾.

SCENE 4:

IN OBADIAH STANE'S LAB

Engineer: Mr. Stane. Sir, we've explored what you've asked us and it seems as though there's a little hiccup⁽⁸⁾. Actually, um ...

Obadiah Stane: A hiccup?

Engineer: Yes, see to power the suit ... sir, the technology doesn't actually exist. So it ...

Obadiah Stane: Wait, wait, the technology? Here is the technology. I've asked you to simply make it smaller.

Engineer: OK, sir, that's what we've been trying to do but honestly, it's impossible.

Obadiah Stane: (*yelling*) Tony Stark was able to build this in a cave! With a box of scraps!

Engineer: Well, I'm sorry. I'm not Tony Stark.

SCENE 5:

IN TONY STARK'S OFFICE

Nick Fury: [quoting Tony Stark from his press conference] "I am Iron Man." You think you're the only superhero in the world? Mr. Stark, you've become part of a bigger universe⁽⁹⁾. You just don't know it yet.

Tony Stark: Who the hell are you?

Nick Fury: Nick Fury, Director of SHIELD⁽¹⁰⁾.

Tony Stark: (*nonchalantly*⁽¹¹⁾) Ah.

Nick Fury: I'm here to talk to you about the Avengers Initiative.



Vocabulary

- The Merchant of Death:** arms merchant. The phrase is derived from the book entitled Merchant of Death: Money, Guns, Planes, and The Man Who Makes War Possible.
- Making bricks and beams:** constructing a building.
- Every inch:** completely or in all ways.
- Zero-accountability:** claiming absolutely no responsibility for something.
- With the top down:** Referring to a vehicle known as a "convertible" with the roof down.
- Klicks:** slang for kilometers.
- Kingdom come:** an informal phrase, derived from "Thy kingdom come" means "the next world" or "the end of time".
- Hiccup:** in this context it means a small problem.
- Part of a bigger universe:** growing famous.
- S.H.I.E.L.D:** stands for the Strategic Homeland Intervention, Enforcement and Logistics Division.
- Nonchalantly:** showing no anxiety or interest.

(By Li Jing)

